

NEWSLETTER 78
SPRING 2025

40 YEARS OF

The Cinnamon Trust

The national charity for older people,
the terminally ill and their pets



READ WENDY & RUBY'S
STORY ON PAGE 28



Dear Friends,

A year of mixed emotions, following the passing of our founder, Mrs Averil R Jarvis MBE on 22 January 2025. Averil was a compassionate and visionary advocate for the elderly and their pets. Averil's unwavering commitment to the welfare of both people and animals has left an indelible mark on the lives of many. Her kindness, dedication, and vision have inspired many to continue her mission of compassion and care. Rest in peace, Averil. Your kindness and dedication will never be forgotten.

2025 is a year of celebration. 40 years of The Cinnamon Trust. It was just after the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, that we were sitting in her garden, surrounded by Corgis, discussing what we would do for The Trust's 40th birthday. "We'll have a Jamboree", she said, as the corgis darted across her lawn to some poor unsuspecting squirrel, who escaped up a pine tree!



PATRICK & OLLIE

Well, that Jamboree turned into The Big Walk, and this year it's the start of our celebration around the country, from Cornwall to Norfolk, Yorkshire to The New Forest. There is also the Cinnamon Treasure Trail and, of course, the exclusive Cinnamon Trust Corgi, designed by Charlie Bears.

We could not do what we do without our fantastic family of Supporters and Volunteers who have helped us grow over the last 40 years, so please share this newsletter with your friends and family and let's find more willing people to help with dog walks, cat care, a trip to the vets, short term care or offering a loving forever home to one of our Cinnamon Pets.

Take care

Patrick Williams
Chief Executive



Our History



The following includes extracts and quotes taken from our newsletters and from letters and notes written by Averil herself, we thought it would be fitting to hear her voice echoing through the decades once again.

In **1983**, Mrs. Averil Jarvis, MBE was walking her beloved corgis on the Towans, in Hayle, Cornwall when she met a local lady out walking her two dogs. It was a dog walk that would change her life and in fact change the lives of many many people, although she didn't know it at the time.



CINNAMON

During their chat, the older lady told Averil that she was in poor health and how worried she was about her dogs' future; what would happen if she was admitted to hospital or passed away. Averil immediately said that she would help and gave her details so that she could be called if anything ever happened.

Sadly, Averil learned that sometime later, the lady had passed away and despite Averil's promise, the dogs had been put to sleep. Averil was devastated and the promise she had made would haunt her. She started to wonder, does this happen often? What happens when people are terminally ill, is this a decision they must face? What happens if you had to go into nursing care, is this the only option?

Averil found that tragically pets were ending up in shelters, rehoming centres or being put to sleep. Averil was determined to help; she knew how much her dogs meant to her and so she felt very deeply about those whose only option was to part with them. The idea of The Cinnamon Trust was born.

Working from her kitchen table with two friends, Averil started writing and campaigning. An article in The Telegraph garnered support from many, some offering large donations or collateral security to enable the purchase of a Sanctuary for bereaved pets. These gestures of support were reassuring and encouraged Averil's idea to become a reality. A vision of hope for the future of elderly owner's pets; a promise of love and care.

In **1985**, Averil sold her beloved 300-year-old cottage and her business to fund the charity and at the same time her corgi Cinnamon passed away in her 17th year. Renting a small house in Redruth, so that the fledgling charity had an address and phone number, Averil started The Cinnamon Trust with a few supporters; those that felt the same way and wanted to offer a bereaved pet a loving home for the rest of their days.

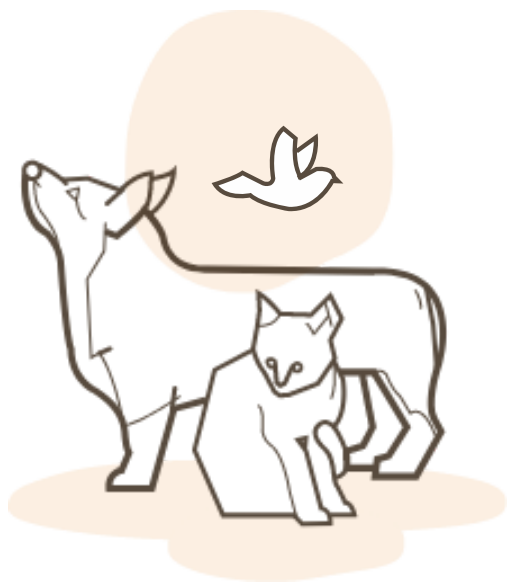
Nancy Brant was the first volunteer, a loyal friend to Averil and a loving foster to many cats. Nancy authored a poem simply called “Tim” for the first newsletter in **1986** and we have featured the poem a little later as it seemed fitting to include it again as a reminder of our roots.

From the very start Averil got the attention of some very famous people who became our patrons, Paul McCartney and Virginia McKenna. They have been a constant support of The Trust from the beginning to the present day.

Averil was an active campaigner; she was a guest speaker and authored a research paper for The Society of Companion Animals Studies.



AVERIL & HER BELOVED CORGIS - 1986



“My research has shown that main areas of concern were “What if I have to go into hospital?” What if I can’t care for my pet at home?” “What if I die or have to go into nursing care?” Clearly, these questions had to be fully addressed, and the challenge was set.

The special relationship between owner and pet adds incalculable quality of life, but all the pleasures and benefits can be completely neutralised by intense anxiety regarding the fate of their devoted companion should an owner die, fall ill or have to move into nursing care.”

The search was on for a suitable property to become The Cinnamon Trust's first sanctuary. There were setbacks but Averil and her small group of devoted volunteers were all inspired to continue for those they supported. It was all an enormous gamble and Averil had put everything she had on the line. A very welcome boost came from HRH Prince of Wales, now our King, who sent a donation of £2000 and his best wishes for the success of The Cinnamon Trust. Good fortune continued and on Valentine's Day **1988** she moved in.



POLDARVES FARM SANCTUARY

"It is a lovely place which already has the air of sanctuary about it. A peaceful coexistence with wildlife will be the order of the day! By planting shrubs and trees, we will encourage the wildlife abounding to stay, and 'Our' animals will have lovely walks (dogs) and stalks (cats). We are planting safe and sure roots, as quickly as possible, to feed what is now a very rapidly growing tree."

The first resident was a Brimble, a 14-year-old Cocker Spaniel. Kind donations of curtains, sofas and televisions helped turn Poldarves into a warm, welcoming Sanctuary.

1989 saw the launch of a Cornish fundraiser called the Pirate Trail, as a homage to this we are bringing a 40th Anniversary version, a national event that will be revealed this summer on our social media platforms, so don't forget to follow us!

Achievements of the 1980's

- 🐾 20 VOLUNTEERS
- 🐾 100 OWNERS HELPED PER YEAR
- 🐾 15-20 CALLS PER WEEK
- 🐾 248 PROFILED PETS

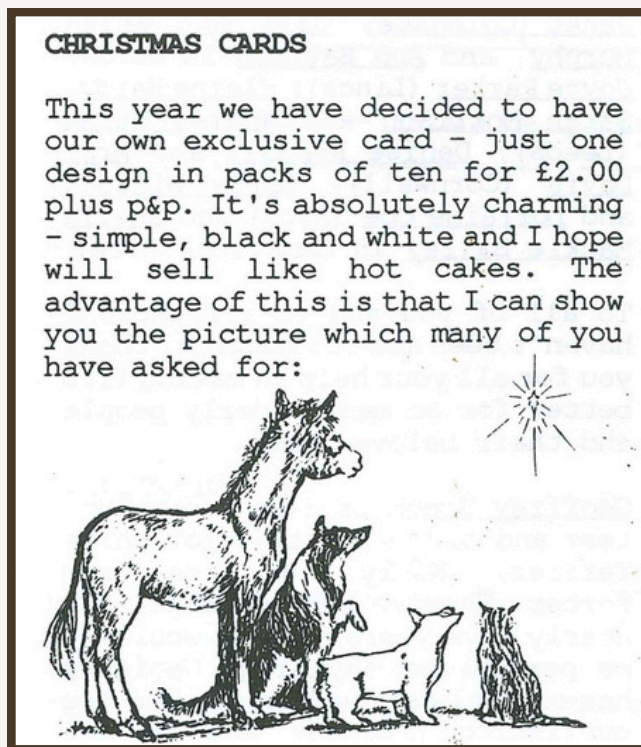


BRIMBLE

In **1990** a generous legacy helped to convert the roofless pigsties at Poldarves Farm into six cat rooms with comfortable gardens. In **1992** The Cinnamon Trust had a few firsts, we were first broadcast on TV on a BBC program called Lifeline, which generated 400 calls! We also had our very first Christmas Card available to order.

In **1993** The Trust received lots of fundraising donations from numerous dog training and ringcraft clubs across the UK. The dog training community has been a constant support, and we are so grateful that they have continued to be there for us through the decades. Some more firsts this year as well with our first volunteer view featured in our newsletter and The Trust launched its Pet Profile register and introduced Emergency Cards; this is something we do to this day, so that emergency services know an owner has made arrangements with The Trust and can alert us to a pet in need.

A lovely coincidence happened on Valentines Day the large mortgage that allowed Averil to purchase Poldarves was cleared, 5 years after the Valentines Day she moved into the sanctuary, brilliant!



FIRST CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN - 1992

"I feel humbled and privileged that thousands of elderly and terminally ill people and thousands of animals are happier, safer, at peace because of Cinnamon Trust."



Branching from the initial idea came the next step of helping elderly owners keep their pets with them for as long as possible. This led to volunteers being recruited across the country to offer walks to dogs with housebound owners.

**THE OFFICE
POLDARVES FARM SACTUARY**

The Cinnamon Trust started its Pet Friendly Care Home Register in **1994** as another way of keeping pets with their owners for as long as possible.

The next natural step was for The Cinnamon Trust to buy or build a second Sanctuary and in **1995** the search and fundraising began in earnest. The requests for dog walking and fostering support were increasing; the Charity was starting to outgrow the small office at Poldarves Farm.

In **1996**, the time had come for Averil to move from Poldarves Farm, as she has an opportunity to buy back her dear old cottage thanks to a bequest from her Dad. This coincided with a dedicated office being rented in Hayle to cope with the ever-increasing requests for help. Six team members took the calls and coordinated help around the country.



“It has been strange for me and nerve wracking to say the least. My baby is growing up and like any mother I watch with pride and trepidation as others now hold hands to take us from, as it were, childhood to youth. You can bet I’m watching like a hawk, and one thing will not change – that is the loving and the caring of people and their precious pets that has made and will always make CT special”

A small catalogue was included with the **1997** Autumn newsletter and a national appeal to raise money for the second Sanctuary is kicked off with a generous donation from our patrons Paul and Linda McCartney.

The values of the Cinnamon Trust are shown when a lady called in **1998** and profiled her dogs and then said, “it’s a shame you don’t take other animals, I have two goats and I’m going to have to put my darling girls down.” Arrangements are made and stables built, just in time, as a few days later the owner passed away. Kath and Julie are the first goats but certainly not the last.



“Poldarves Sanctuary and our Forever Foster homes give elderly and terminally ill owners the peace of mind they need and their pets the loving homes they deserve.”

KATH & JULIE

The target for our second Sanctuary was reached in **1999**. Hillside Farm in Thrushleton, Lewdown, Devon was found, and it was perfect – on its own, but easy to get to and twenty-seven acres. There is a small area of woodland and plans are made to plant trees on most of the rest to encourage wildlife – flora and fauna! The first residents are a pair of lovely Collies; Rosie and Lucy.

“I feel like a mother hen wanting to put her wings down and keep everyone safe. I cannot tell you how you support me so we can help the elderly, the fragile and those sorrowing and be there for their companions.”

ROSIE & LUCY - 1999
HILLSIDE FARM SANCTUARY



We get our first Cinnamon Trust van; so we can now transport our Sanctuary pets to the vet in comfort and style. We also started our Gold Awards, thanking those volunteers who had gone above and beyond.

THE HILLSIDE TEAM - 2024
HILLSIDE FARM SANCTUARY



THE FIRST CINNAMON TRUST VAN

Achievements of the 1990's

- 🐾 2700 VOLUNTEERS
- 🐾 400 OWNERS HELPED PER YEAR
- 🐾 42 CALLS PER WEEK
- 🐾 689 PROFILED PETS

Our first colour Christmas Cards are launched in **2001** and feature artwork with our Sanctuary residents as models by Margaret Ryan. This very popular tradition continues into later years with the artist Linda Rush, and most recently with Alison Lingley.



FIRST COLOUR CHRISTMAS CARD - 2001

Our newsletters also received a splash of colour in **2003**. The small office in Hayle is no longer big enough to manage the number of calls, volunteer registrations and owners requesting help. A much larger property was sought and in **2004** The Cinnamon Trust moved to Market Square in Hayle where we remain to this day.

“Constancy is achieved by every call for help coming to headquarters and volunteers all over the UK tasked from here. We’ve set a target to help 10,000 elderly and/or terminally ill people a year by 2008, but we must keep the personal touch, the quality of service and care – each ‘case’ is a potential private hell for owner and pet and each one deserves the very best we can do, the peace of mind that we can give.”



LATEST CHRISTMAS CARD - 2024

In **2005** Averil was privileged to be mentioned in the Queen’s Birthday Honors List with a Member of the British Empire awarded for her work with The Cinnamon Trust. The MBE was presented by Prince Charles. Averil is accompanied by Trustee Pat Akins and her husband David. Pat is still a Trustee and has been a dedicated supporter and good friend to the Trust.

MRS. AVERIL JARVIS MBE



We were thrilled to welcome The Duchess of Cornwall, now our Queen Consort, in **2007**. Meticulous planning which included a buffet lunch for everyone (yes, including sausages for the dogs!) and of course a bouquet of flowers and a plaque to unveil. Our Headquarters were transformed and buzzing with excitement.



Her Royal Highness was charming, gracious and took time to speak to everyone. It was a proud, happy and memorable day that none of us will forget.

ROYAL VISIT - 2007



In **2008** we introduced a star rating system to our Pet Friendly Care Home register and arranged biennial assessment visits to ensure that any Care Home we suggested for owners was indeed pet friendly; it is vital that we provide peace of mind in all areas of our support. This included the relaunch of the Pet Friendly Care Home of the Year awards.

Achievements of the 2000's

- 🐾 7000 VOLUNTEERS
- 🐾 9000 OWNERS HELPED PER YEAR
- 🐾 200 CALLS PER WEEK
- 🐾 2300 PROFILED PETS



PET FRINDLY CARE HOME AWARD

2010 was our 25th year and our Silver Jubilee celebrations included a presentation at Crufts. We wanted to show what we do, so with lots of organization; 25 owners, their dogs and the volunteers that helped them (a total of 96 people) came to the NEC at Birmingham.

“As we entered the main arena, I was able to say a few words about each dog and the circumstances which required our help, as they all circled this huge stage it really was impressive and very moving to see how far we have come.”



As part of the celebrations in Cornwall we held a dog show; this is something we are going to continue as part of our Big Walk Ruby Jubilee celebrations in May this year. Read on for more details.

Averil believed that everyone should get a genuine thank you and idea of what the money raised would be put towards. In **2012** we started sending out detailed thank you notes for donations and still do this today. Recent donations have bought winter coats for our Sanctuary dogs.

SILVER JUBILEE DOG SHOW

“To all our Volunteers everywhere, thank you – for caring, for loving, for going out come rain or shine, for the happiness you bring to the thousands of people and their beloved poets that we help each and every day. You are quite simply the best and I can’t say often enough that we couldn’t do it without you.”

We expand on this gratitude with two new awards in **2014**. A long service award for those volunteers who had kindly donated their time for at least 10 years. And an owner-nominated award for those volunteers that owner’s felt were commendable.

The squirrel family arrived at Poldarves in **2015** from owner Karen who bequeathed us her tame, rescued squirrels and cats. In true Cinnamon fashion we rose to the challenge and applied to Natural England for a wild animal license and built a luxury palace for them; living up to the credo “if you love them, then we do too!”

In **2017**, Bertie, who is Cinnamon’s eleventh great grandson, manned The Cinnamon Trust stand. And of course, everyone flocked to see him, well who could resist his gorgeous face!



BERTIE

Our **2018** campaign to raise awareness of The Cinnamon Trust, Selfies 4 Cinnamon, was a huge success. We heard from many of our volunteers, forever fosters and owners and received such gorgeous selfies.

Patrick Williams, our then Head of Community Service said:

“Since it opened its doors in 1985 the trust and its network of more than 12,000 volunteers have helped more than 250,000 people and 300,000 animals in numerous ways from helping out with vet visits, grooming and dog walking for people in need to rehoming pets when their owners pass away or move into residential care homes that will not accept animals.”

BBC Countryfile came to visit in **2019**; Jules Hudson was lovely and often moved to tears, especially at Poldarves. It was a wonderful day and their reaction to all that we do, and our special and unique sanctuary and staff gave us a real high. Plus, we got hundreds of phone calls and 200 new volunteers!

Achievements of the 2010's

- 🐾 12,000 VOLUNTEERS
- 🐾 75,000 OWNERS HELPED PER YEAR
- 🐾 400 CALLS PER WEEK
- 🐾 6000 PROFILED PETS

In **2020** while the rest of the country was in lockdown, The Cinnamon Trust staff and volunteers carried on.

“The pandemic has made this a challenging year, but we didn’t just rise to the challenge we faced it head on. HQ remained open and fully operational. We recruited an additional 1300 emergency volunteers, bringing our total to 19,000 and deployed all but a handful to help over 90,000 people with their pets. We even had a call from DEFRA to say how much they admired what we were doing in the voluntary sector and that our volunteers were now classed as “key workers.”

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in **2022** meant that of course we had to feature Queenie, one of Averil’s corgis, on the front cover of our Newsletter. Our first Profiled Cow arrives at Poldarves, Baby is a shorthorn and very lovely. Our sanctuaries host Jubilee parties for the residents; life is well lived.



In October Averil suffers a stroke and our current CEO Patrick Williams takes the helm. This is a sad time for our charity; however, we are determined to continue Averil’s vision and to hold true to the values she instilled over the years. Averil sadly passed away in January of this year; she left an indelible mark on thousands of lives. Her kindness, dedication, and vision have inspired many to continue her mission of compassion and care.

SANCTUARY LIFE

2023 was a year of milestones with three staff members at Headquarters marking their 20-year anniversaries. Our manager Julie at Hillside Sanctuary has been there since the beginning and continues to provide the excellent care that our Cinnamon Pets deserve.



We launched The BIG Walk as part of our Coronation celebrations with over 700 walkers participating in 40 walks nationwide; this was hugely successful and has become an annual event. See more details about this year's BIG walk later in the Newsletter.

We were nominated as one of The Times Best Places to Work in **2024**, this is a remarkable achievement and one that we are very proud of.

So, what does **2025** bring us? We have some exciting plans to celebrate our 40th anniversary and how far we have come, more on that later! This year we have launched a new website, a new database was released in February and our literature has a new, modern look. We still hold the same values and messages outlined by Averil in the very beginning and our message is still the same today.



BIG WALK BAG PACKING

Love and care when you are not there



FIRST LEAFLET




PRESENT DAY LEAFLET

We continue to help more and more people with their pets every year. Now with a **staff of over 100** across three sites, we receive around **500 calls every week** and help more than **150,000 people every year** and have almost **11,000 pets profiled**. A testament to Averil, when she was sitting around a table with two helpers, 40 years ago.

A few words from...

Dame Virginia McKenna DBE

A portrait of Dame Virginia McKenna, an elderly woman with short, wavy grey hair and blue eyes. She is wearing a dark blue and red patterned shawl over a red and gold patterned scarf. She is seated in a wicker chair. In the background, there is a lamp with a red shade, a framed black and white photograph of a woman and a dog, and a bowl of food on a table.

"I am extremely touched to have been asked to write a few words in memory of the amazing Averil Jarvis. It was my very good fortune to have known her for nearly 40 years. Her loss will inevitably bring a void in my life and she will be greatly missed by so many."

'I often think of her profound feelings about animals in need, and her extraordinary work with the Cinnamon Trust, the charity which began all those years ago. I never forget how many people care about animals – whether wild or domesticated, all of them can feel pain and joy, just as we do. Averil recognised this.'

As the Cinnamon Trust celebrates its 40th Anniversary I am sure we will all be thinking about the journey Averil took in helping so many animals find happy homes. Our thoughts are with those who loved her and admired her unfailing work.'

The Forty Heroes of Cinnamon

Elizabeth Batty (Somerset)
Elaine & Jock Binmore (Cornwall)
Molly Bridges (Surrey)
Sheila & Michael Buckley (Surrey)
Graham Card (Hampshire)
Glyn Charles (Cornwall)
Eva Chesswas (London)
Resli Costabell (London)
Sophie Cowen (Hampshire)
Myra Cox (Somerset)
Mike & Christina England
(Somerset)
Rosalind Froud (West Sussex)
Julia Gore (Yorkshire)
Sheila Gozzett (Devon)
Helen & Darren Alden Farrow
(Buckinghamshire)
Alan Greenfield (Gloucestershire)
Sophie Hill (Wiltshire)
Graham & Carol Jackson (Essex)
Carlton & Sue Keast (Cornwall)
Delia Kennedy (Devon)
Karon & Godfrey Lyne
(Worcestershire)
Maggie Martin (West Sussex)
Janet Morgan (Worcestershire)
June Murfet (Hertfordshire)
Tom Nevols (Hampshire)
Jim & Zillah Patten (Essex)
Joanna Pease (Buckinghamshire)

Averil often mentioned a scroll of honor so for our 40th year we would like to mention some people whose exceptional service has been vital to the success of the charity. They all have our grateful thanks for their kindness, compassion and support.

Barbara & Hugh Peddie (Dorset)
Christine Penny (Dorset)
Bill Pringle (Devon)
Martin & Jennifer Reed (Essex)
Pat Sanderson (West Midlands)
Diana Rowe (Devon)
Hazel Schofield (Norfolk)
Jane Sheard (Cornwall)
Caroline & Trevor Spriggs
(Somerset)
Jarvis Turner (Lincolnshire)
Dave and Jan Voisey (Somerset)
Lora Wicks (Cornwall)
Jeanette Withey (Gwent)

Of course, all of our volunteers, new and long-serving, are incredibly valued and appreciated. Your dedication to offering walks, a journey to the vet, short term care or a loving forever home means that thousands of elderly or terminally ill owners can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing their beloved companion is in safe, loving hands.

Dog Walking Stories



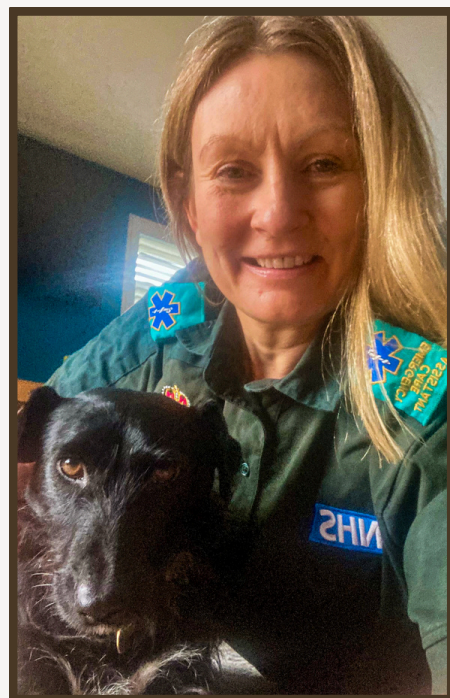
Lottie tells us how volunteering has changed her life in unexpected ways...

I first contacted the Cinnamon Trust in the summer of 2023, having lost our last beloved dog. I was hoping to be able to help someone whilst enjoying some canine company too. I was introduced to a dear Westie called Holly and we enjoyed a weekly walk, soon joined by my new dog Basil! This continued until just before Christmas when I arrived for my walk and immediately felt that things were not right. Sadly, this turned out to be the case and I called an ambulance for Holly's owner. The ambulance crew arrived within minutes and were amazing. Lorraine had made arrangements with a dear friend to look after Holly in an emergency and she was collected.

Very sadly Holly's owner passed away the following day. I attended her funeral a few weeks later & was able to hear an update on Holly and that she was settling in well in her new home. I had been considering a new career in healthcare for some time and this experience gave me the push I needed, and in went my application to the ambulance service!

Meanwhile I was introduced to another lovely dog called Toby to walk, and again we enjoyed a weekly walk with Basil until I began my full-time training with the ambulance service in May 2024.

I passed my course and in September I started my role as an Emergency Care Assistant for South Western Ambulance Service, a job of which I am truly proud & I like to think that Holly's owner would also have approved. Who knows where volunteering can lead you?! Now that I have settled into my role, I am hoping to be able to find another dog in need of walking soon, watch this space!



LOTTIE & BASIL

Lindsay Corr has been helping us for five years and tells us more about her companions, past and present, and why she enjoys volunteering for the furry kind...

In the summer of 2019 I decided to hand in my notice, needing a break from work to figure out if I was doing something I actually enjoyed. Giving myself a few months to decompress and think, I was walking an awful lot for stimulation and thought it would be lovely to have a wee furry friend to come with me.

With a resident cat, Dexter, at the time and living in a small flat, adopting a dog wasn't feasible so I took to the internet and discovered The Cinnamon Trust. As I read up on the charity I thought it was such a wonderful idea, not only for ensuring animals are taken care of but allowing older people to meet and form new friendships.

I filled out an application and it wasn't long until I received an email about a potential case I could assist with. After a call, I was given the details and phoned up to introduce myself and sort a convenient time to call round. The rest as they say is history.

In October 2019 I met Buffy, a beautiful ten-year-old Parson Russell Terrier who, thankfully, took to me immediately. Her owner had recently had back surgery so was unable to get out with Buffy, who absolutely loved her walks, nose often to the ground as she sniffed her way around her favourite areas. Despite her double digits, Buffy was a sprightly girl whose excitement and joy were contagious, and for almost five years I had the pleasure of bonding with her, walking her three times a week bar a stint of absence amidst Covid-19 lockdowns.

My favourite memory was seeing her little face as she sat at the window expectantly waiting for me, followed by excited yelps and jumps at the door in her eagerness to greet me, her stubby tail wagging furiously. In June this year, reaching the fair age of sixteen, Buffy went over Rainbow Bridge after deteriorating health and I still miss her. She will always hold a special place in my heart, and I think of her often. I'm also extremely grateful to her owner for keeping me informed and allowing me the opportunity to say goodbye.

Besides Buffy, I also had the privilege of walking Zac, an eleven-year-old wire haired terrier for most of 2022. He was a much shyer boy than Buffy, but he enjoyed a trot around his favourite spots, looking up pleadingly for little treats along the way, and was responsive to encouragement so it was rewarding to see him gain confidence and know I was part of that.

Now, I'm delighted to say I'm being kept busy by the charity with a doggy duo and a fabulous feline. Once a week I walk two little beauties - Heidi, an eight-year-old Miniature Pinscher and Chip, a six-year-old Teacup Chihuahua - who are polar opposite personalities. Heidi is a feisty girl, and Chip is a more nervous wee guy who I've enjoyed gently gaining the trust of, knowing I'm privileged to get a paw on the hand and little nose licks!

Recently I have also had the pleasure of meeting Shadow Bear, a charming British Blue Longhair cat. His owner has various health issues that prevent her from grooming and playing with Shadow Bear so she reached out to The Cinnamon Trust.



LINDSAY & BUFFY



I have now adopted another cat, Ben (a short haired sweetheart), so being a cat owner the charity saw the potential for me to assist, and I was delighted to receive their call about this unique case as from the moment those big orange eyes looked up at me it was a match made in heaven. His long hair obviously needs serious maintenance so I'm calling in a few times a week, and while he isn't the biggest fan of getting groomed (unless it's the tip of his head which he'd happily let anyone rub endlessly), he has allowed me to get the knots out and ensure no new ones form, always rewarded with a fishy treat and stimulating play. I am a firm believer in the simple things when it comes to animals, and he loves nothing more than to "hunt" a piece of twine as I drag and swirl it around the room, his bushy yet sleek coat swishing as he shows off all his sass! He makes the most adorable little grunts and mews, and it is very rewarding to visit Shadow Bear and continue to build up our rapport.

SHADOW BEAR

So, five years on I am still enjoying volunteering and extremely pleased I decided to sign up. The organisation is wonderful and all the staff I've been in contact with are friendly and encouraging.

It has led to meeting some wonderful animals and humans, kept me healthy and motivated to move, and allowed me to help just by giving my assistance and time to those who need a helping hand.

Joyce in Warwickshire writes...

Our dog, Cooper is a very precious part of our lives, he is a treasured companion for me as I am rarely able to leave the house due to a rare form of progressive, multi-systemic, muscular dystrophy for which there is no treatment. My husband, Mike, was my full-time carer, even at 81 years old, Mike was remarkably fit and well, able to look after me and take Cooper for the good long walks he enjoyed.

Our world turned upside down when Mike was diagnosed with two tiny but fast-growing cancers and needed to have major surgery to remove part of his lung. Our grown-up family rallied round and arranged care for Cooper and me 24/7 while Mike was in hospital and for the first few weeks of his recovery. Unfortunately, his recovery was complicated, and three months after the

surgery when Mike should have been as well as he was before the surgery, he was still unable to walk any distance and it was evident that it was not viable for us to go on as we were.

With help from our family, we were able to manage to look after ourselves, but we still couldn't walk Cooper and were wondering if we were being selfish to keep him when we couldn't look after him properly and that for his sake we ought to re-home him.

Then my sister-in-law told us about the Cinnamon Trust. We got in touch and very soon, we had three lovely ladies walking Cooper regularly. Everyone from The Cinnamon Trust

we have had contact with has been really kind, reassuring and caring and we have had regular calls to ensure we are happy with the help we are getting. On one of the calls, a team member said "we're here for you for as long as you need us" it has made all three of us so much happier.

Those words have meant the world to us since because, sadly, Mike's balance and stamina have not returned to normal nearly a year after the surgery. There's now little hope that he will be able to take Cooper out regularly himself any time soon; knowing we can have ongoing help is very reassuring as Cooper is such a good companion and we love him dearly.

Thank you is inadequate but thank you Cinnamon Trust for giving us the ability to keep our precious pet with a clear conscience, knowing he still has a good quality of life.

MIKE, JOYCE & COOPER



JESSICA & LOTTY

Our volunteer Caroline and her daughter Jessica tell us about their walks with Lotty in Kent...

In May 2023, a friend introduced me to the Cinnamon Trust, and as someone who loves both animals and walking, I was immediately intrigued; the idea of volunteering to help someone in need to walk their dog felt like the perfect combination. My daughter, Jessica, who is 11 years old, is also an avid animal lover. She's been dreaming of owning a dog, but with two cats at home, that just isn't possible! I wondered if Jessica could join me in volunteering, and to my delight, The Cinnamon Trust said yes!

We live in a fairly remote area, so it wasn't as simple as signing up and starting straight away. It took a few months of effort—posting about the Cinnamon Trust on local Facebook pages, pinning up posters at bus stops, and spreading the word—to finally connect with someone in need. Then, one day, the email arrived: we had a match! A little dog named Lotty, who lived just 15 minutes away and needed our help. Her owner was undergoing difficult cancer treatments and couldn't manage any walks. Jessica and I were overjoyed at the opportunity.

We arranged our first walk with Lotty and were thrilled to meet her. She was just as excited to see us as we were to meet her! Despite the wild wind and relentless rain brought by Storm Bert, we set off on a long walk together. It was invigorating to be outdoors, stretching our legs, and knowing we were making a real difference for Lotty and her owner.

Lotty trotted along happily, in and out of puddles, and her cheerful demeanour lifted our spirits even in the stormy weather. Jessica, who dreams of a career caring for animals, found the experience deeply rewarding. She has already learned so much about responsibility and compassion through these walks.

Volunteering with the Cinnamon Trust is not only a way for us to spend quality time together but also an invaluable stepping stone for Jessica as she explores her passion for animals.

Since that first walk, we've met up with Lotty regularly for a couple of walks each week. The weather hasn't improved much though! But the joy Lotty brings and the knowledge that we're helping someone in need make every soggy step worthwhile. We've already started imagining how wonderful it will be to walk Lotty under blue skies and sunshine when spring finally arrives!

Our journey with the Cinnamon Trust has been more than just dog walking; it's been a way to connect with our community, support someone during a difficult time, and create cherished memories together. Lotty has become a bright spot in our lives, and we're looking forward to many more adventures with her—come rain or shine!

Our volunteer John tells us the beautiful story of 'Jess and Me'

It all started with a lovely email from the Cinnamon Trust team, asking if I was available to walk a dog for an elderly lady. This would be my first dog walking role with the charity, which was exciting, and a day was arranged for my first meeting.

On my journey to meet Jess, I reminded myself why I was doing this. I had just spent 5 years working at a well-known London animal rescue. And there, I had dealt with a lot of dogs, who sadly had to be given up by their owners due to various reasons and I saw how those dogs were often very confused and scared, as they didn't know or understand what was happening and just wanted to go home again. So, when I had read that the Cinnamon Trust tried to keep pets with their owners, then I was all for that. And wanted to do my bit, as every other person involved with the Cinnamon Trust wants to do also.

I arrived at the address and rang the bell, the door opened, and I was flattened by Jess. A very excited 7 year old Border Collie & Labrador cross. Standing behind her, was a tall, graceful lady, who said "Jess, we don't do that to guests do we". Jess at this point, was searching in the umbrella stand, looking for her best ball to show me. I formally introduced myself and showed my Cinnamon Trust ID. The lady then said, "Thank you John, please call me Julie" and a lovely friendship started.



JOHN & JESS

I then walked Jess 5 days a week and it started out as just being for an hour, but very soon, crept up to an hour and a half plus. And I really enjoyed every minute of those walks. Jess was an absolute dream to walk. And I always followed the rule, that it was her walk and her time, so if she wanted to stop and look or smell something, then that was just fine by me.

Jess was water and ball obsessed. Which could have its moments, as there was a stream on one of our walks, which she would launch herself into and quite often stay in it, until she decided she was getting out, a decision I had no say in. On one of our walks, I took her to a lovely big park near to me. I threw her ball a few times and she was loving it. Suddenly, Jess did a massive jump into orbit, straight into a pond and then sat there, very pleased with herself. She then calmly walked out, stood next to me, and shook the water off. Could I get the hump with her? No, because after one look at her happy face, tongue hanging out, eyes bright and tail wagging, I refuse to believe anyone could.

Jess started her job of training me to her needs. Which usually involved herding me, if I wasn't going where she wanted to go, or dropping her ball, whilst she waited for me to catch up, then flicking it towards me with one of her front paws for me to throw it again. I ended up with about 5 different types of balls and would look at the type of terrain, windspeed and obstacles, before selecting the type of ball, best for Jess's enjoyment, much like a caddy might select a club for a golfer in a pro golfing tournament.

When I got her back home, quite often Julie would invite me in for a coffee and a biscuit, and we'd have some great chats. I found out that Jess had actually been Julie's husband's dog. But she had very sadly lost him the year before. So not only was Jess good company for her, but Jess kept the memory and closeness of her husband there for her, so to me, that was vitally important. Julie had also had a fall, a short time before I met her, which is why she needed help from the Cinnamon Trust.

I found out one day, as we were having a coffee and a chat, that Julie had been a good swimmer, in fact much more than just a good swimmer and had competed in the Olympic Games in the 1950's. She was very modest about it and more interested in hearing about my much less adventurous life. Whilst we were sitting there chatting, Jess came in, sat next to Julie's chair and stared at her with real love. She then lay down on the floor next to her chair and rested her chin on Julie's foot and I knew without a doubt then, that these two needed to stay together.

Julie made the decision to move closer to her family and so came my last walk with Jess. I wanted to make special for her, so I picked her up in my car and drove her to another park near me, one that she'd never been to before. As soon as we got out the car and she saw the woods, she was very excited. I let her off the lead, picked the right type of ball for the terrain and occasion and she was off, well only as far as she could still herd me if needed. We did a lap of the woods, with some gentle ball throwing and lots of sniffing and exploring by her. Finally finishing near a lovely cool and clean stream. I threw her ball, and she did one last fantastic dive, catching it in mid-air, before landing in the water. I just sat there, watching her enjoying herself, happy with the memories I would have of this very special lady, who I fully realised at that point, had captured a little bit of my heart.

I put her back into my car and started the drive back to Julie's, with mixed feelings about them both. I knew I would miss my walks with Jess immensely and my chats with Julie, but happy knowing I had played a little part in keeping them together. We arrived back and it was time to say our goodbyes.

That, however, isn't the end. Julie has moved into a lovely ground floor apartment, near the coast and one of her daughters. She has a huge, enclosed communal garden, which Jess can go out anytime for a zoomie or two and be quite safe. The other residents have really taken to her already and why wouldn't they. And they are only about an hour away from me, so I shall be visiting for a coffee and a stroll quite soon. And that is the story about Jess and Me.

Helen in the West Midlands writes...

In 2014 my daughter was working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, and for her volunteering element walked a dog called Cassie each week. We used to take our own dog Heidi, a German Shorthaired Pointer with us every Sunday, and once the DofE was complete continued to walk Cassie as it had become a regular weekend event for us.

Now 10 years later I have experienced some poor health and am unable to walk my own dog, another German Shorthaired Pointer called Mia. I contacted the Cinnamon Trust to see if they could help with walking her for a few months until I was able to walk her myself again. The charity was able to find me three volunteers; Dinah, Shaun and Duncan who come on different days to walk Mia.



MIA & ODIN

Mia loves the attention and variety of walkers, meeting their dogs and playing with them.

I had not appreciated when we were walking for the Trust in 2014 the full value to recipients of the support. It was a nice thing for us to do and we knew that the owner looked forward to us going each week, but to be a recipient and to know that Mia is getting the exercise and socialisation that she needs is so appreciated. It has helped me during my recovery because I know that she is in safe, caring hands and I have no need to worry that she has not been exercised.

Having seen things from both sides, as a walker and as a recipient, I now fully appreciate the care and support given by the Trust and their volunteers and wanted to thank everyone for their care and support during what has been a difficult time for me and would have been a very difficult time for Mia without the Trust.

Volunteer Sarah in Somerset looks back fondly on 8 years of volunteering...

I've been walking Poppy for almost 4 years now, and of the 5 dogs I have walked as a Cinnamon Trust volunteer since 2017, this is the longest time I have walked the same dog.

It was 2021 when I was asked to support an owner with his Shih Tzu x Jack Russell Poppy. Even though Poppy is a small dog she was becoming too strong for her owner to walk safely, and she was also a little unruly! He'd contacted The Cinnamon Trust for support and the rest is history.

POPPY



I walk Poppy every Friday afternoon; her owner and I always have a chat about life and the world. We were still in the throes of the pandemic and first met wearing face masks with a good distance between us as Poppy was handed over. Now we stand and chat with ease each week checking in on how we are while Poppy sits and waits patiently for me to finally open the gate and get going! One thing we agree on is how Poppy has matured into a very calm and caring dog over the past 3 years; she is very well-tuned into her owner's health needs and I would imagine make a very good pet as therapy dog.

I absolutely love walking Poppy and so long as there's a field, a woodland path, a river, or some fox poo (more about that later!), she's a very contented little dog; ears flapping in the wind and a cheeky grin on her face.

Poppy will do anything to get into water. The fields we walk around can often get flooded during the colder, wetter months, and if I give her a long enough lead Poppy will race toward the marshy bog like a child rushing into a sweetshop. The downside to Poppy's love of water is having to return her caked in mud. I feel dreadful and whilst I try to remove most of the bog mud with a towel, her owner is always at the ready with the shower and the hairdryer – he never minds, just as long as Poppy has had a great walk.

However her favourite trick, and being half terrier it's not a surprise really, is to search out and roll in fox poo. No matter how much I keep an eye on her, shortening the long leash if I sense she's found a good spot, the moment I drift away looking at the scenery or stopping to talk to another walker, that's it, she's in it! And then, I really do feel terrible taking her back!!

I know Poppy's owner has a good support network throughout the week but to see Poppy at the window on a Friday at 4pm, rushing out to the gate when she hears my car, her tail wagging and her grin welcoming me, I feel an important part of her life; giving her an adventurous and energetic walk come rain or shine!

Volunteer Emma writes from Staffordshire...

I've been a volunteer for a good few years now and walked quite a few dogs, from terriers to poodles to labradors. I love walking and love animals so volunteering was an absolute no brainer for me. I enjoy catching up with the owners and knowing I'm helping them as well as their pets is an added bonus.

I've been walking Bertie for just over a year now. We enjoy a walk around the local park and pool in Lichfield. For such a small chap he can be very strong and determined, he will let you know which way he wants to go for sure. Bertie is a bundle of energy and quite the character - he is a lovely dog, loves a bit of fuss from anyone and we always have a little cuddle before our walks, and he makes sure he gets his treat after his walk too!

I'd recommend becoming a volunteer to anyone - The Cinnamon Trust is such a great, worthwhile charity and I try to spread the word about it as much as I can.

EMMA & BERTIE



And owners Geoffrey and Vera say... the volunteers at Cinnamon have been a life line for us as we are unable to walk Berite ourselves. They are all lovely, kind and reliable; they turn up in both good and very bad weather. Bertie loves them all as well and is always so happy to see them. Knowing he is getting his walks is so important because Bertie is our friend and companion and is very close to Geoffrey, particularly since his health has deteriorated. Thank you all very much.



GRACE, OSCAR, MUM, DAD & JONAH

Grace (11) tells her story...

My Mum, Dad, brother Oscar and I walk Jonah every Sunday at 3pm. We love walking Jonah because he is such a happy dog and loves going out for a walk. We normally walk Jonah around the Bryntirion area in Bridgend but sometimes we like to mix it up a bit and go for a walk in Porthcawl.

He is always excited to see us when we pick him up and he adores his owner, Roslyn. My mum Laura started volunteering to do dog walking because it would give us some time as a family to be together and it would also help other people who are unable to walk their dogs. Every time we pass a lamp post, or patch of grass, shrubs, flowers.... Jonah has to sniff it! He's a sniffer dog!

Jonah loves to meet other dogs and is super friendly with them. As soon as we get back to Jonah's house, he runs and jumps straight into his bed, and then runs off around the house again! We love walking Jonah - it is the highlight of our day.

Our volunteer Jackie in Lancashire writes...

When I lost my beautiful dog Beau in 2021, I was absolutely heartbroken. When he was poorly and I was sat with him on my knee in the vets waiting room, I saw an advertisement on the wall for the Cinnamon Trust. I remember saying to my mum who was with me, how wonderful is that charity, I loved the idea of being able to support people in their times of need with their beloved pets, when the animals were well, but their owners perhaps weren't. Little did I know at the time that Beau wouldn't be coming home with me again.

As the weeks passed, I kept thinking about the poster and knew I had to make contact, which I did and have been a volunteer since 2022. I walk little Lola every week for her owner Jan and have been doing now for just over 3 years, Lola is a special little friend to me. I have also short term fostered Millie, Jack and Penny over the years and its always comforting to me knowing they will be going home to their loving owners and back to their safe happy homes, whether that is once their owner is better or once they have enjoyed their little walk.



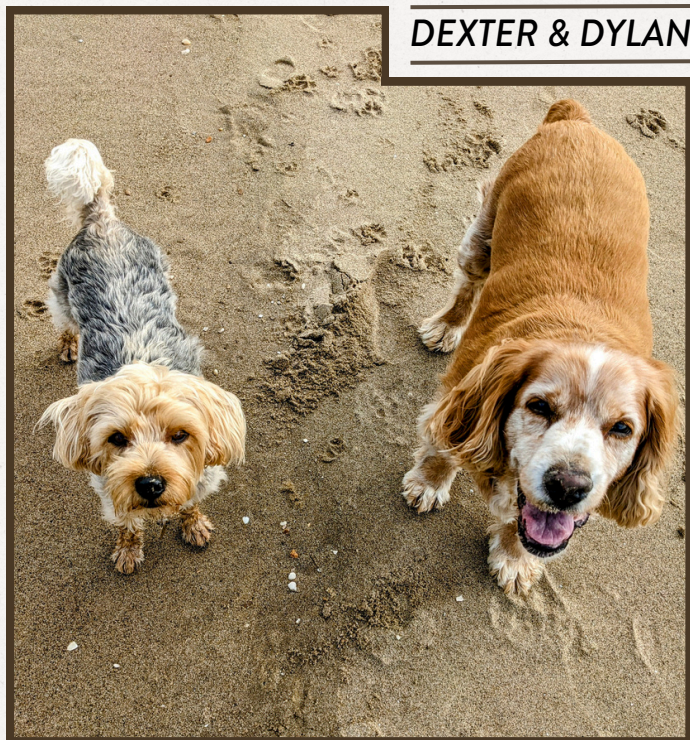
LOLA

I believe Beau played a part in me becoming a volunteer with the Trust as the timing of me learning about The Trust and his journey over the Rainbow Bridge is too closely connected. Volunteering allows me the chance to be close to these beautiful dogs and feel I am helping their owners. I think of Beau every single day and I thank him very often for guiding me here.

Carol, a volunteer in Clwyd writes...

Shortly after relocating to North Wales almost 13 years ago, I spotted a Cinnamon Trust article in the local press requesting dog walking assistance for a lady nearby and volunteered my services. I had the pleasure of regularly walking several lovely dogs until a couple of years ago when I was thrilled to get my own little rescue dog, Dexter.

I decided I needed to focus on settling in my own boy for a while but a year later, when I was asked if I could help walking Dylan, I was happy to give it a go; as long as my dog was happy, then so was I. Dylan is a gentle 14-year-old cocker spaniel who had grown rather tubby while his owner had spent an extended period in hospital.



DEXTER & DYLAN

Our initial meeting went well with the boys having a sniff of each other, then happily mooching in some awful wet and windy weather while I tried to avoid getting in a tangle with their leads. Dylan had some arthritis in his hips and the extra weight wasn't helping so we progressed to car journeys, giving us access to an assortment of local dog-friendly walking options. These walks give Dylan the opportunity to do his favourite things i.e. rolling, paddling, sniffing and lolloping. Dexter is much younger than Dylan and he wants to move at a different pace, so he can hurtle about if he wants to while I take things at Dylan's pace.

I don't think Dylan's vision is the best, nor his hearing (though that might be selective!), but there's absolutely nothing wrong with his nose so he'll head off to anything or anybody that attracts him, generally with me plodding behind and Dexter dashing about but checking in for the chance of a treat when they sit side by side with patient expectation.

I feel that Dylan's calmness has been a useful influence on Dexter, who had problems with other dogs in his previous home. Dylan's condition has improved over the months thanks to everyone who walks him and to his owner for managing his diet. He's lost weight and is comfortable moving both much faster and further these days, though he still needs a bit of a lift to get in the car. I look forward to continuing our walks for a good while yet.

Volunteer Nicci is keeping busy with Buster in Cambridgeshire...

I've always been a dog person. There's nothing quite like a dog-walk—fresh air, a chance to clear your head, and a happy companion by your side. For 16 wonderful years, I shared my life with Carlino, my beloved pug. As she grew older and faced health challenges, first walking with wheels and then in a buggy, our bond only deepened. It was during her final year that I was introduced to Buster.



NICCI & BUSTER

The past couple of years have been challenging for me — as well as losing my dog, I lost two close family members. Through it all, Buster has been a little ray of sunshine. His walks give me a sense of consistency and routine, helping me recover from everything that's happened.

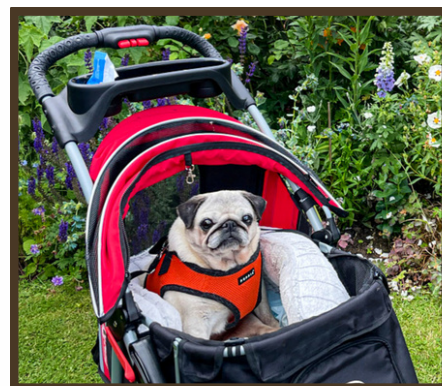
I can't recommend the Cinnamon Trust highly enough to fellow dog lovers, especially those looking for a meaningful way to boost their mental health. Thank you to the Trust for organising this, and to Mr. and Mrs. Burfield for trusting me with Buster. Most of all, thank you, Buster, for your boundless enthusiasm as my new walking buddy!

Volunteer Rachel updates us on her walks with Milo in Clwyd...

Milo is the little Jack Russell Terrier in the front and my dog Mab is behind. I walk Milo with Mab and sometimes with my 10-year-old daughter too.

He's learnt our sound and smell now, so he doesn't bark when we walk up to his house, but he whines and is always very excited to see us, jumping up on my knee for a cuddle before we set off. It's only 5 minutes out of our way to collect him and again to drop him off and it gives us so much joy to take him with us. And even though we sometimes only walk for 30 minutes, it makes a big difference to him.

We recently took Milo to the private enclosed field and oh what a blast he had! He loved running off lead and chasing a ball; he just looked so happy.



CARLINO IN HER BUGGY

Buster is an energetic and spirited Shih Tzu who absolutely loves his walks.

Initially, I walked him as holiday cover

for his regular walker, while I cared for my disabled dog, and we quickly got to know each other. His excitement when it was time to go out became a bright spot in my day. I even got to walk Buster alongside Carlino's buggy a couple of times.

When I lost Carlino, I took a little break to grieve, but soon I was ready to offer Buster a regular weekly walk. He's an absolute joy and walking him has been a special way to keep dogs close to my heart while I mourn, as I'm not ready to have another dog of my own just yet.

Mr. and Mrs. Burfield, Buster's owners, have been wonderfully kind and flexible, always accommodating my schedule. It's a true pleasure to visit each week and hear Buster's excited scuffling behind the door. As Mr. Burfield often says, we leave the house 'on toe,' full of energy, and always return tired and ready for a drink!

We are very fond of him and get so much pleasure out of seeing his enjoyment of his walks. He loves his mum and home too, so even though he is excited to set off, he's equally happy to go back to his mum and it's lovely seeing him content when we return after he's burned off some energy and caught up with his pee-mail in the park.

We saw him out with another of his walkers last week and he recognised us and gave us a huge welcome, which was incredibly cute.

Our volunteer Vicki tells us about Suki, a furry football fan in Kent...

Despite my full-time job and frequent travels preventing me from owning a dog, I always find joy in volunteering and getting my regular dose of canine companionship. I've had the pleasure of walking a few dogs for the Cinnamon Trust, and was then asked to assist a lady who had recently lost her husband and suffered a stroke, leaving her unable to walk her dog.

She was a bit shy on our first walk, but clearly delighted to be out and about. For the past year, I've been walking her a couple of times a week, and we thoroughly enjoy our lengthy strolls across the Ashdown Forest in Sussex.

I often feel guilty returning Suki to Jenny as she's typically covered in mud and twigs, a testament to her relentless exploration and herding instincts. However Jenny always reassures me not to worry, stating that these are signs of a contented dog who's had a good walk.



MILO & MAB



Suki's most cherished hobby is undoubtedly playing football and I always ensure she's on her lead whenever we pass a playing field. There have been a few instances where I wasn't quick enough, and found her joining in the matches.

Jenny's immense gratitude for the care given to Suki is evident, and it's just as fulfilling for me to witness Suki's journey from a shy, unsure pooch to a faithful companion. She's always excited to see me, offering her toys for play, her belly for tickles, and even after a two-hour walk, she still insists on a game of football before I leave!

Jo in West Sussex writes...

I have had the privilege of volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust for the last 3 years and I am currently walking the wonderful Skye, an 11-year-old Springer Spaniel. Her owner Rob had been unable to walk her due to arthritis and when I was asked to help just over a year ago, I was happy to support. Rob had sadly just lost his wife, and I could see how much Skye meant to him and the companionship she gave him. As Rob says – she is my best friend.

VICKI & SUKI

On my first walk with Skye, I was met with a warm welcome, she has such a gentle, friendly nature, you can't help but fall in love with her and when she looks at you with those beautiful eyes you just melt. So, no surprise then that we bonded very quickly. We enjoy a weekly walk up the South Downs, which keeps us both fit and despite getting on a wee bit in years (Skye that is!), she is very spritely. We recently did a steep hill climb, and she left me lagging (quite impressive).

I would absolutely recommend volunteering for the Cinnamon Trust, I have always been a dog lover but as we have 3 pampered cats, we can't have a dog of our own. Walking Skye gives me an opportunity to have little bit of doggy companionship and helping Rob is equally rewarding. You also get to meet some wonderful people and forge new friendships along the way.

To sum it up, my happy place is Skye coming out to greet me on a weekend morning and us enjoying a quiet walk away from all the hustle and bustle of life...

Emergency Fostering Stories

JO & SKYE



And now an all-round view about Red in Suffolk, firstly from his owner Christine...

I first called the Cinnamon Trust in 2019 when I broke my back in 4 places and could no longer walk my dear little whippet Red. The volunteers were lifesavers and enabled me to keep Red, I had been worried that I would need to let him go as he was a young dog and needed regular exercise.

Sadly in 2022 I was diagnosed with cancer and my immediate worry was for Red – what would happen if I was admitted to hospital? I decided then to profile Red as a guarantee for his future. Over the next couple of years Red stayed with a lovely volunteer on the odd occasions that I did end up in hospital and he was safely in foster care when I learnt that my cancer was terminal. I was devastated. Later that year an emergency struck, I had to go into a hospice and needed care for Red immediately. Thankfully The Trust found a local volunteer called Karen who stepped into the breach.

I was delighted with how the first meeting between Red and Karen went, he had a lovely cuddle with her, and I knew that he would be happy staying with someone he had bonded with. When he trotted off with her, he didn't even look back, I was a tiny bit jealous but so happy that Red was confident and happy to leave me so I could go into the Hospice for treatment without worry.

I was so excited to be reunited with Red when I returned home; he had a brilliant time with Karen, and I was delighted with the care he received. Karen has stayed in touch and visits sometimes; Red remembers her, and they still have a close bond. As my health has deteriorated further now, Red still has regular walks from Cinnamon volunteers for which I am grateful; I don't know what I would do without the Trust.

And then volunteer Karen tells us about her birthday buddy Red...

I had a happy and sunny birthday yesterday with my foster pal Red! My husband, Red and I went to a dog friendly cafe in the Suffolk countryside for brunch, followed by a lovely woodland walk, then Red and I had a lazy afternoon on the sofa having cuddles and listening to my audio book.



KAREN & RED

We then all went for a long field walk once the sun was low and ended up at our local dog friendly pub for dinner. Red had his

own fresh bowl of water and special doggy treats while we had our Al fresco meal... a happy birthday indeed!

And lastly, we hear from one of Red's walking buddies, Alison...

Red the whippet began taking me for walks eight months ago and we haven't looked back. His enthusiasm and energy really lifts my spirits and it's been lovely to get to know his owner, Christine.

I wanted to do some work in my local community that was also something I enjoyed. I love dogs but don't want the commitment of a family pet at the moment so when I heard about The Cinnamon Trust through a friend, I was delighted.

When I first met Christine, she was very welcoming and told me all about Red – how he doesn't like rain, and keeps himself away from other dogs, but loves his treats and has great recall. We walk near a lake, in a huge park edged by woodland with ample space, so the walk is just as good for me as it is for Red, and I feel refreshed and energised as well.

It's been a privilege to get to know Christine who has not been well but is always happy to see me and we have a good chat when I come to collect Red. She obviously cares for Red like a family member and her kindness and good training has made him the ideal dog to take for a walk.

Knowing that I am supporting Christine in helping her keep her beloved whippet happy at home is important to me and I feel that I am making a valuable contribution to my community. Being part of the Cinnamon Trust has been a very positive experience - it's good for Red, it's good for Christine and it's good for me.

KAREN & RED



Excerpt from Bonnie's diary, reflections on my short term foster with Sue...

My owner Joan was taken into hospital. To my delight my great friend Sue from Cinnamon arrived to take me to her place.

I know Sue well. I used to take Sue for a walk every day when I lived in Sussex. It was lovely at Sue's. I had my own big garden to explore, we went out for three long walks every day, lots of sniffs, fox poo to roll in (which meant having my own towel, being shampooed, and brushed each time). I met many new friends in the recreation field including my new bestie Lexi – the guide dog.



We went out every day in the car. I quite like travelling but would have preferred to sit in the front. I'm a bit of a back-seat passenger and find it difficult to sit still – it was a good thing I was strapped in, but to be honest I like looking out of the window and taking in the air.

I lost weight as I walked and ran so much, and I was often hungry. Even though I asked politely and looked adoringly with my puppy eyes the answer was usually "No." I cannot really complain. I felt cared for, and Sue always fed me at the same times. If we went out to the local café, I sometimes had a little snack – a biscuit or dentastick if I had been well-behaved. The café owners made a fuss of me, so I always felt welcomed and included.

After a few weeks I had really settled in. Sue let me sleep on her settee and on her bed.

JOAN & BONNIE

Every day I needed to remake the bed as the pillows and cushions were always in the wrong place. We would often have a cuddle together and I would have a brush, so life was sweet.

One dreadful day, Sue mentioned that I have bad breath and decided to get toothpaste and a toothbrush. I cannot believe how she tortured me – it was purgatory. I kept my mouth shut, sucked in my cheeks, and breathed through my nose. I had to make sure my teeth couldn't be seen. She gave up after 40 minutes -thank goodness.

Sue took me to for a couple of little swims at her friend's private pool. Swimming was great fun, I was a bit scared at first, I'd never been in such deep water. I soon got my swimming confidence back and paddled backwards and forwards like an expert.

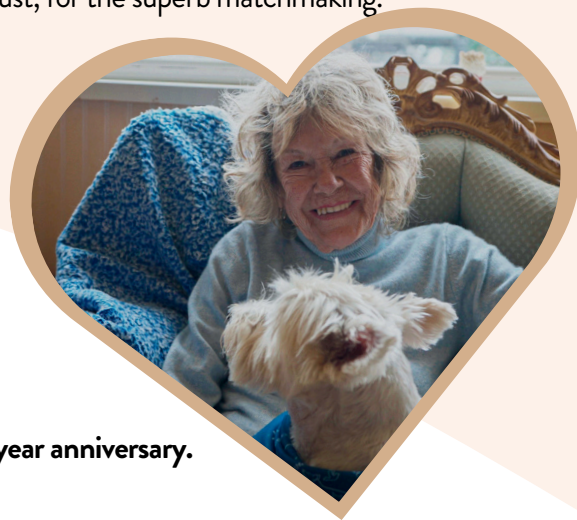
One day, to my joy, Sue told me I was going to see my mum Joan again. It's a long car trip and we stopped off several times so I could stretch my legs. I realised where I was when we turned into the car park, and I was so excited that I could not stop my tail wagging.

Taking a deep breath I rushed into the apartment. My heart dropped at first when mum wasn't in bed, then I saw her on the sofa, and it was so wonderful. I rushed over, snuggled up and I couldn't keep the smile off my face. Mum started crying – she thought I'd forgotten her – as if!!

So, to my canine colleagues who may be fostered. It's nothing to worry about. It might be a bit strange at first and you might be scared. You might have to adapt your ways a little bit, however you will be looked after and loved and really that's all that matters.

A final note from Sue... Madame Bon Bon is a beautiful little girl, strong willed and usually well mannered – a pleasure to know and she can come to stay here anytime she would like to. Thank you, Cinnamon Trust, for the superb matchmaking.

Forever Fostering Stories



Our Poster Girl Wendy and her beloved Ruby who is so aptly named for our 40 year anniversary.

Living along the road from our Headquarters, Wendy and her beautiful Westie Ruby were a well-known part of our local community in Hayle. We often met her when she out walking Ruby; Wendy always had a friendly smile and a hello for each of us.

Wendy rescued Ruby when she was 11 months old and profiled her with us in 2019; Wendy was fit and well but understood the importance of having a plan for Ruby and the peace of mind that Cinnamon could give.

An emergency trip to hospital in 2021 led to Ruby coming into short term care for a few days and The Cinnamon Trust began helping Wendy and Ruby by finding some volunteers to offer walks. Wendy was always incredibly grateful for the walks that Ruby enjoyed with volunteers and for knowing that we were here to help.

In 2024 Wendy agreed to star in our video that is available to view on our new website. Wendy saw the rushes, and loved what she saw, she was proud to be a part of The Cinnamon Trust. Sadly, not long after the filming finished, we had a call from Wendy's dear friend Tina to let us know that Wendy had passed away; Ruby was with her until the end. Of course, we rushed into action,

and you can read below how sweet Ruby won over our Finance Manager Trevor below.

We spoke to Wendy's son Louis, to give our condolences, and reassure him of Ruby's future, We also wanted him to know that his Mum had taken part in a film we are making about The Trust and how she had agreed to be featured on our website. We wanted his blessing and for him to know that Wendy had left a lasting legacy by agreeing to help explain what a difference our help had made to her and Ruby. We asked if he would like to see the film and photos so he could see how amazing she was on film and the photo we were going to use in our publications. Louis told us that his Mum had always wanted to be a poster girl, her wish granted in true Cinnamon style, as you can see from the front page of this newsletter.

TREVOR & RUBY

From Trevor...

Last year, my Ted (half westie and half bichon) went over the rainbow bridge. He was almost 18 years old. It was a very sad time, and I still think about him... but it is getting easier now.

I remember The Cinnamon trust asking me if I would be interested in a Cinnamon Trust dog. I said "yes... in time." I wasn't sure when that would be. However, when Wendy passed away, I was asked to short term foster Ruby. It was a bit of an emergency, and I thought - yes, I can do that, until something more permanent is found. Well within about 4 days Ruby had won my heart, and I asked if I could be her Forever Fosterer. When you know, you know.



Ruby is a 7-year-old Westie delight. She settled in quickly and I know my life is so much richer because of her. It has been interesting taking on a dog that is known locally. I have met people that Ruby knows, and it is heartwarming to see how so many people know and love this girl.

Of course, not everything is plain sailing – Ruby is keen to chase cats (I don't let her) and has a dislike of one Jack Russell in particular. One of her endearing qualities is she likes to maintain eye contact with you – you melt.

So, Ruby and I are an item now. I am really pleased to be part of Ruby and Wendy's story. I look at how happy Ruby is and hear the comments of others about Ruby and I know that the Cinnamon Trust are doing a wonderful thing.

Forever Fosterer Linda in Norfolk writes...

Lucy found her way into our lives last July, she is the sweetest, most loving, and loveable dog that we ever could have hoped for. I tell everyone who asks about her history, that she came to us through the Cinnamon Trust, and that she must have been so very loved, to have the beautiful nature that she has.

She was an incredibly sad dog when we got her and was 20kgs overweight. We know we have moved a lot of mountains with Lucy in her first year with us. She loves her walks, she doesn't pull me off my feet anymore, and doesn't lay down and refuse to move, in no time at all and with encouragement and lots of praise she is a different dog. The vets are happy with her weight loss and Lucy has worked really hard to concentrate on what is being asked of her, learning to manage her excitement when she sees another dog in the village, and can now say 'hello' nicely and go on her way! Happily trotting along a couple of steps ahead, on a loose lead, like a little show pony now, with a waggy tail and her head held high, she makes us so proud of her.



LUCY

We rarely let Lucy off her lead when we are out, as sometimes her ears tend to stop working once the lead becomes disconnected! We only let her off when we know we can get her back safely, and the beach rock bays we have here, are good for that. Lucy loves the beach, sometimes having a quick paddle whilst she is there, and she loves it when she has another friendly doggy to run with. Most mornings we are usually at the beach just as the sun comes up, sunrise is my favourite time of day for us both, and I always feel Lucy was our new day, as well as us being hers.

Lucy thoroughly enjoyed her first holiday with us, we took her on a short journey to a dog friendly cottage, with an enclosed field, to safely be off lead. We had planned to use that opportunity for recall training, but she was having so much fun, we decided to just let her be a dog having lots of freedom and fun for a couple of days. Lucy had the hump for 2 days when she got home, huffing and puffing, and loudly sighing as she would drop in her bed! She always lets us know how she is feeling and can be quite funny at times! She's brought us a lot of joy.

We are going away soon for a couple of days to meet up with friends, and Lucy will come with us. It is lovely being able to include her in what we do and can plan things around what works for her too. She has her own season ticket for a lovely water garden that we enjoy visiting, and there is so much for her to sniff and enjoy there. Even when one day she decided she wasn't going to get in the car to come home and welded herself to the ground on the car park, so no one could get in or out! Thank goodness everyone thought it was funny, and she was adorable! (Which she is of course!)

Without one moment of doubt, Lucy has filled our home, and our hearts with so much love, we cannot imagine her not being here, but we know we have to remind ourselves that in reality, she won't be here forever. We lost our last dog Ava very unexpectedly at 8 years old and feel that Lucy has stepped in to give us the golden years, we didn't get with Ava. It is our absolute privilege to care for this beautiful girl on behalf of the Cinnamon Trust, we are so incredibly grateful, and Lucy is loved beyond measure, and in the all too short time we do have together, she will certainly live her best life with us.

We now hear from Heather in Shropshire...

I first heard about the Cinnamon Trust in the 1990's during my profession as an Occupational Therapist in Wales. It was a decade or so later before I started to forever foster cats, thanks to Moira's advice at CT headquarters.

LENNY & LEROY

Twiddles, a tortie, entered my life and settled in well. She was a character, and her favourite place was settling on the bottom shelf of the airing cupboard. Unfortunately she developed a complex case of diabetes after 5 years and needed expert care. The best option for her was to go to Cinnamon Trust's sanctuary – Hillside in Devon. I was very distraught to lose her especially as it was the beginning of COVID and I had to keep my distance once the driver had put her in the van to take her. Julie and her staff at Hillside were so kind and understanding. They sent photos and assured me that she received the expert help that she needed. In time she settled well with the staff, other cats, and the routine. What a wonderful facility Hillside is!



Recently Twiddles passed away and I treasure a photo of her grave. When I read the message there it brought me to tears – “Run free little one”. It still does, and I left it a few months before I decided to foster again as I needed to recover. It is never easy, and I get so upset when my furry friends / family have to leave me. They mean so much, particularly as I live alone and do not have any children of my own.

When I was ready I contacted the Cinnamon Trust again and now have two gorgeous brothers called Lenny and Leroy to share my home with. They are Ragdolls and so gentle and affectionate, but very different personalities!

It took a while for Leroy to settle and trust me. I think he was grieving. He spooked easily and I had to move slowly. It has taken

time but now he likes to come onto my knee for morning grooming as Dreamies follow! He loves being outside in the garden especially in the sunshine when he likes to roll about.

Lenny is the boss; he greets most visitors and joins in chats with my neighbour. We have a lovely cuddle every morning after he has been groomed when he stands on the table and makes appropriate turns so that I reach every side and don't miss anywhere out! Lenny's place is the study – which I call Lenny's Den. He is a bit of a hunter and sometimes brings me gifts or eats them along the way.

They both enjoy a sleep together in various places – chairs, greenhouse staging, on top of my Hotbin composters with views over the fence, or in a large bird table feeder. They look so amusing when they squeeze in together to shelter from the rain, though they now prefer the greenhouse!

Many are the joys of long term fostering and I enjoy many cuddles. I want to thank all the staff at the Cinnamon Trust for their kindness, help, dedication and friendship.

Forever Fosterer Stephen in Norfolk writes...

Welsh Collies, Mandy and her sister, Misty, came to live with us in October 2018. The Cinnamon Trust helped us with their passports, so over the years we have travelled with them to France, Spain, Portugal and Ireland in a motorhome.

We had to say a very sad goodbye to Misty last February. She was peaceful and surrounded by love.

We still go abroad and recently spent a month in France with Mandy. We made sure that life was easy for the little 15-year-old, with plenty of rest breaks. She is with us 24/7 getting constant fuss and attention, even when we go out in restaurants, we take a bed and water bowl for her. I think it's easy to say that she fell on her paws with us, and us too with her.



Our founder Averil was always keen for our Cinnamon Pets to be able to travel with their Forever Foster families where possible; so, we will pay for the health certificate and vaccinations needed to allow these wonderful holidays.

FAMILY HOLIDAY

Maria tells us about her Mum and her beloved companion Katie...

When my mum was given her terminal diagnosis one of her immediate concerns was what would happen to three-year-old Katie. Mum had always had dachshunds and even bred them in her younger years. After she lost her previous two the same year her husband died, she couldn't help but fall in love with Katie. It was during the COVID pandemic and mum lived in a rural location, so Katie was spoiled and not particularly socialized!! She had boundless energy and was the most playful dachshund mum had ever encountered. They were great company for each other.

For months even the thought of rehoming Katie was too much for mum to contemplate. I was beyond relieved when I stumbled upon a poster about the Cinnamon Trust and started to explore options. The kindness of the staff and their understanding were second to none.

Events at home meant we had to relinquish Katie sooner than mum would have wanted, as she needed to move into care, and I will have to live with that guilt. We were matched with Natalie and her daughters, and when I took a call with Natalie, I was

completely reassured that Katie was going to have a wonderful new life.

Knowing that Katie is thriving and being loved and having more opportunities to socialize has been a blessing. Natalie has been so thoughtful in keeping us updated with texts and photos. We are so grateful and share the good work of the Cinnamon Trust all the time. Thank you, Natalie, and thank you to the entire Cinnamon Trust team.

And from Natalie...

I first heard about The Cinnamon Trust when they helped my Mum, she had multiple sclerosis and had made arrangements with The Trust that if anything should happen to her 3 dogs would come into the care of The Trust. Her pets were her world and we were always surrounded by animals. I was not in a position to take her dogs as I had a beautiful collie called Holly who was getting on in years and would not have appreciated canine company. When my Mum passed away, The Trust kept their promise and took her beloved dogs into their care.

When we lost Holly and we were ready as a family to welcome another dog my first thought was to contact The Cinnamon Trust and ask that we be considered as Forever Fosterers.

It's been almost a year since Katie came to live with us. She's a face-licking, squirrel-chasing menace and we adore her. We're very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for letting us be Katie's forever foster family and we are please that as a family we have the opportunity to repay the kindness shown to My Mum and her dogs when the time came. Thank you Cinnamon Trust.

NATALIE & KATIE



Forever Fosterer Helen tells her story...

One of the many reasons that I love having dogs is because I enjoy walking them, so when Rolo, our first Border Terrier, got too old to go far, I applied to The Cinnamon Trust to become a volunteer dog walker. I was assigned to Sandra who, coincidentally, also had a Border Terrier, Teddy.

Teddy and Sandra were everything to each other. Sandra's on-going treatment meant that Teddy was left by himself at times. He barked when she was out and, due to stress, often had accidents. I did my best to help. To begin with, Teddy was reluctant to leave Sandra for a walk, but I coaxed him, and he eventually came. After a while, he got used to me and was pleased to see me when I arrived. When we got back, I used to have a cup of tea with Sandra, and a chat. Her treatment wasn't going well, and it was eventually stopped because it wasn't working. Sandra often commented on how much Teddy liked me, and I clearly liked him, so one day she asked me, if anything happened to her, would I take him on.

The answer wasn't a simple yes. I had an elderly dog of my own to consider and I also knew that Teddy had some significant issues. In addition to acute separation anxiety, he didn't like children and his relations with other dogs outside the home were patchy. I talked to The Cinnamon Trust who said they would support us, thought about it, talked to my husband, and thought some more. The answer was a conditional yes, but I needed to know that Teddy would get on with Rolo. We had a home visit from The Cinnamon Trust to check everything was suitable for Teddy, and we introduced him to Rolo, walked them together, and eventually, when Sandra was taken into hospital for 48 hours, Teddy stayed over. They were fine together although it was clear Rolo was the boss!

During 'The Beast from the East', I got a phone call to say that Sandra had gone back into hospital and could I please take Teddy. As I couldn't get to her house in my Mini, a friend of Sandra's, with a 4x4, drove Teddy over. She couldn't get up our drive due to the snow, so I collected Teddy, on foot, from the village hall car park, with his belongings. I took him home and one of the first

things he did was to cock his leg in the hall! He was a confused, unhappy dog. He cried during the nights, got really upset if I left the room let alone went out, and refused to eat. In desperation, I fed him out of my hand.

Gradually, however, with routine, kindness, and lots of support from The Cinnamon Trust who did absolutely everything they could to help, things slowly improved for Teddy. Not so for Sandra. It gradually became clear that she would not be coming home. I took photos and videos on my phone, sending them to Sandra on a daily basis. I hadn't realised how important these were to her until one busy day, I forgot. She told me she lived for those little updates. I didn't forget again.



The weeks went by, and Sandra was clearly deteriorating. One day I got a phone call from a friend of hers to say that Sandra only had a few days left and was asking to see Teddy. I spoke to The Trust for advice and decided to go straight away, having checked with the hospital that they would let Teddy in.

It felt odd, taking a dog into a hospital and we got some strange looks as Teddy pattered along the shiny corridors and went up in the lift. When we got to the ward, Sandra was barely conscious, but I placed Teddy on her bed, which is where he would have been at home, and she rallied. It took Teddy a split second before he realised it was her, but his greeting couldn't have been more enthusiastic, licking her arms, tail wagging furiously.

TEDDY & BEAR

I promised her, firmly, Teddy would be well looked after and that we would give him the best life. After our short conversation, she slipped back into semi-consciousness, so we left. The next morning, I got the phone call to say she had passed. It felt like she had waited to say goodbye to Teddy.

Teddy has been with us six years now, and he is a very well-loved dog. We lost Rolo, aged sixteen, a year after we took Teddy on and, subsequently, got another Border Terrier puppy who we named Bear. We tracked down Teddy's breeder and Bear is his great niece. We often refer to him as Uncle Teds as he is very patient with her. She absolutely adores him. I'm not sure Teddy has ever completely got over the loss of Sandra, but he is a much happier dog and he and Bear are quite the bonded pair! The Cinnamon Trust were there for Sandra and Teddy and have continued that support over the years. Teddy's story really exemplifies the good work that they do and if he could say thank you, I know he would.

A view now from Tamsin & Kim in Oxfordshire...

After we had to say farewell to our last little Cavachon Dixie, last March, my partner and I decided to give ourselves a year off being dog parents. Not only was the grief of losing them dreadful but it would allow us the freedom to do some of the things we don't usually get to do, like family holidays abroad. What we didn't bargain for was the emptiness of the house, the silence and the lack of warmth that comes with a pet. Even if they are old and quiet, as ours was, they somehow manage to fill the house with their presence, and we had owned dogs for the previous thirty years, so this emptiness felt very strange and unwelcome.

Scrolling through Facebook one night in April, enviously looking at other people's dogs, I came across The Cinnamon Trust. I had never heard of them but once I started to read about them, I thought they sounded like an amazing charity. We decided that we would apply to foster an older dog but sometime in the future.

Well, fate stepped in, and we were sent the details and pictures of Harry and Trixie, nine-year-old brother and sister Lhasa Apsos. Their owner had sadly died, and they were looking for a permanent home. Suddenly holidays abroad and new-found freedoms didn't seem nearly as appealing as the thought of two new furry friends to look after. We read everything about

them and after passing all the checks we finally picked them up in June.

I had read about the three 3s, 3 days to get over a trip, 3 weeks to learn your routines and 3 months to bond with you so I was expecting it to take a while for them to settle. Plus, we had some trips already planned that they would be coming on so settling in might take longer. I'm pleased to say they settled in really well and they were unfazed by the holidays. They have been to Pembrokeshire, Devon, Kent and Dorset and they love new walks especially along the beach. They enjoy all new experiences, meeting new human and doggie friends and are truly the best little dogs we could have had. They are very well behaved, calm and the best at cuddles ever. Both of them love to sit snuggled up to you on the sofa and Harry in particular has become my little shadow.

We were told that Trixie had good recall but no mention of Harry, so we expected him to be trickier in that regard. It turns out that they both have great recall if you have your bag of treats with you!



A CUDDLE WITH HARRY & TRIXIE

Trixie tries it on sometimes, deliberately hanging back so that she can be called and given a reward; she is definitely trying to train us. Every night they have their bedtime snack, and we give them a kiss and a cuddle from their old mummy and then one from us. We like to think that their previous owner would be happy with how we are looking after her babies, and we are sure she knows that we love them dearly. We are very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for allowing us the privilege of being Harry and Trixie's forever foster family.

Jonathan & Vanessa of West Sussex tell their Forever Foster story...

Six years ago, almost to the day, my wife and I forever fostered a dog called Amber, a 6-year-old German Shepherd x New Zealand Huntaway; a strikingly pretty and enchanting dog with a gentle nature, playful disposition, and a gorgeous pair of ears! We absolutely adore her.

Amber's previous master John had sadly passed away. He had family but they were not in a position to look after her and so he had left her in the care of The Cinnamon Trust. John's family gave us a box which contained medals and rosettes which Amber and John had won at dog agility. The family kept two first place rosettes as a memento and rightly so.

We thought that it would be nice to continue with Amber's agility classes, after all she must have been quite good at it, and it would provide some continuity for her and be something new for us to take part in. We duly enrolled with Highdown Agility where the tutor Lesley was overjoyed to see Amber once again. John had worked hard with Amber, for whether jumping fences, running through tunnels, weaving through poles, or going up and down a seesaw, she was confident, agile, and sure footed and she did it all with a big smile on her face. She was clearly in her element and equally clearly, we had a lot to learn. Over the next few months, we learned how to guide Amber around various courses and how to command her to jump, turn, climb, weave etc. It was lovely running around with her and watching her react to our commands. It was joyful and exciting.



JON & AMBER

After 6 months of training, we entered our first club competition. It was great fun albeit we finished some way down the list, but further competitions ensued and as we learned more and gained experience, I'm pleased to say that together we won two first places and were presented with rosettes and a trophy. We were so proud of ourselves and Amber and felt that we had managed to emulate what John had himself achieved with her. We hope that he would be content if he knew that Amber had continued with her agility, that she is having a happy life, is well cared for and much loved. Perhaps he does, who knows.

Amber is now approaching her 12th birthday. She no longer does agility but only because the tutor, after having taught agility for a number of years, decided to teach something called Hoopers instead and which is what Amber has been doing for the last 18 months. It involves your dog running around a course comprised of hoops, tunnels, and barrels. Rather than running around with your dog you have to command them from a distance. Think of One Man and His Dog but on a much smaller scale. It's a different discipline but one which we all enjoy and Amber, being a mixture of two sheepdogs, seems well suited to it.

We entered Amber into her first Hoopers competition at the end of April and then a second one more recently. We were surprised and delighted when she won her class on each occasion. In essence it's all a bit of fun and that's all that matters really. We are happy to have achieved something new with Amber in addition to continuing with the agility that she loved. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks!

Vanessa looks back at her first walks with Daisy, the start of a beautiful friendship...



VANESSA, DAISY & MAUREEN

"All is wonderful with Daisy. I love her! And Maureen is a lovely lady too" was one of my first update emails to The Cinnamon Trust. I was chuffed to bits when I wrote this next update: "I am here all December, so happy to walk Daisy on Christmas day. Best Christmas present ever!"

That was back in 2021, and I was new to the area, but this was the start of the magic of synchronicity at work. I had spent years saying I wanted a whippet and had even chosen a car based on if a future whippet could fit in the boot.

Maureen and I became friends, and I would stay for a cuppa and catch up all the time, with Daisy at our feet resting. Actually, not at our feet, she had her own armchair in the sunroom at Maureen's; whippets do love being warm and comfy. Then in 2022, Maureen was poorly and needed to go to hospital and her carer remained in place to look after Daisy. I thought "what if Daisy came to me to stay?" I had never owned a dog, and this was a great way to work out if I could do it. Daisy was a dream and settled so well.

Maureen came home from hospital, but unfortunately, she was not well enough to have Daisy back. So instead, Daisy and I would go over for a cuppa, so Maureen could see her baby, as she called her. We encouraged Daisy up on to the bed, where Maureen could hold her paw and give her a stroke. Maureen was so sad whenever we left, it broke her heart to give Daisy up, but she would always say at least she knew she was in good hands. We continued to visit Maureen until the end of her life.

Of course, Daisy attended Maureen's beautiful funeral, and she was so calm sitting when we all sat, and then standing when we all were asked to stand. Also, the view from the crematorium was over a beautiful field and of course a rainbow emerged. Maureen and I had spoken often of Rainbow Bridge where she would be waiting for Daisy, while meeting up with all her other whippets from years gone by.

Since then, Daisy has become my Forever Foster dog via The Cinnamon Trust, and they pay for all her arthritis meds and supplements as she is 13 now. They recently send her a heat pad for her old bones, which she goes to day and night. Daisy is the gentlest, sweetest dog, she is anxious and follows me around the house. I think her favourite thing is resting while I work, then she can just go to sleep and not have to follow me around. I work online and need her to be calm in the background and she does just that. She is doing so well and has adjusted to a new puppy in the house. Another whippet of course!

Oscar fills us in on his new life in forever foster with Margaret...

Hello there! My name is Oscar. I was born in June 2016 and am a British Shorthaired Blue with a pedigree certificate, my full name is Jacadam Clark Gable but I much prefer being plain Oscar. I was bought from my breeder by a lovely lady, and I became her world.

We lived together in Wales; I had no boundaries and life was fantastic. I had a delicate stomach and had to have a special diet, but I had lots of treats including "human food". Then my beloved owner became frail, and a care home looked to be her future. She found a home where she could take me, and we both moved. Unfortunately, I didn't settle there, I was used to going out into my specially enclosed garden getting fresh air, enjoying the sunshine and watching the birds.



The Cinnamon Trust was contacted and a lovely lady called Zoe handled my case. My future home had to understand my special diet requirements, have an enclosed garden and I must be allowed to sleep on the bed.

OSCAR

The day arrived, in February for me to move to my new home. A super man came to collect me and my belongings early in the morning to transport me to my new home. It was lucky he had a large car because I had a lot of possessions including my special blanket (pure wool), 18 food and drink bowls, 6 scratching posts, numerous beds of different shapes and sizes, a cat tunnel, a large cat tree, litter tray plus all my toys and my special food.

After a four hour journey I was met by a lady who cooed over me in my pet carrier. After they had taken in all my possessions, I was let out of my carrier in the conservatory, where my litter tray had been set up. I was then given some food. After a short time talking to this new lady, my chauffeur departed, and I was left with her. My new life had begun.

She then started being very concerned, I haven't mentioned that I was an extremely large boy, have I? I was 6 kilos. The lady had a cat flap on the door which leads from the conservatory to the kitchen, it was a normal sized cat flap she had for her previous two girl cats and thought "he is not going to get through that". I had to suffer the indignity of being measured around the chest to get the correct size; I was 20 inches. She then ordered a flap for a very large cat/small dog. Which was duly fitted at a later date, and I use all the time now.

After about a week of being in my new home she started giving me a boundary, me a boundary! She doesn't like me getting on the kitchen worktops and the tables. I get told "NO" and lifted down, how dare she? I have so far managed to steal five times from the worktops, but she has caught me each time and I have been told a very serious NO!

When I had been in my new home for four weeks I was put in my pet carrier and taken to see a very nice lady who I understand is a vet. The lady was told by the vet I was overweight and needed dental surgery. How dare she!

Two days later I was taken to the vets again and left this time. I was given something and when I woke up, I was minus five yes FIVE teeth and my claws had been clipped. When the lady came back to collect me, the vet then advised her on my daily diet which unfortunately she is following the instructions to the letter, human food continues to be off the menu much to my disappointment. I must say I no longer have a horrible taste in my mouth, and she tells me I am not a smelly boy anymore – the cheek of it!

A week after my surgery I was allowed out into the enclosed garden. It was raining on the first day and I only stayed out for a very short time. Then after that I was allowed out for longer periods; when I felt more confident, I checked the joint out, and to date I have not been able to find any escape routes. She has recently bought me a garden bed, and I love it, I spend hours on it in the garden watching the birds, cleaning myself or just sleeping.

She has visitors sometimes, now I am more confident in my new home, I greet them, and they all make a fuss of me, I like that. The man who changed the cat flap is quite often here doing gardening and odd jobs. He makes a fuss of me, and I quite like him now. The only problem is she has two little people visit, I believe they are aged four and two and they want to hold me, I don't like that. I have a safe place, and I go into that bed, and they cannot find me. Do you know what those two little people do, they wear my cat tunnel around their tummies and they love to play with my Fox Den toy, that doesn't bother me because I am not keen on it, but they didn't even ask - HOW DARE THEY?

My diet is progressing she keeps telling me she will take me to the vets to get me weighed, but I know I have lost weight. I race around the house, I can move very fast when I want to. Also, unfortunately I have to admit I have not had any stomach issues since I have been with her, she keeps telling me I will not be fed the human food which I crave, just my special diet food. HMMMPH!

She had a very sad text message in March saying my dear beloved "first mum" had passed away. She messaged back with her condolences and saying she hoped my dear "first mum" knew I had won her over. She keeps telling me I am a good boy and calling me her little darling. I am not called Darling my name is OSCAR.

And from Margaret... a year ago, on 17 February, I was extremely fortunate to have the gorgeous Oscar walk into my life. What a twelve months we have had. I have an adorable boy who is so at home. I consider his health so much better, his breath and saliva doesn't smell and we have never had any tummy problems. Oscar now has a few boundaries in his life, which has been extremely difficult for him, he knows them and he likes to break them because he knows he will get a reaction from me. He races off "laughing" because he has gone before I can react these days. He is a very clever cat! I am so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for allowing me to foster Oscar and I hope we have many more years together. Also a big thank you to you all for your continuing support.

Cecily in Cornwall writes...

Dali, came to me in 2021 when his owner, who had a terminal illness and could no longer care for him, contacted The Cinnamon Trust for help.

He is a beautiful, grey, Spanish Andalusian and had been brought over to England from Spain a few years previously. Dali and his field mates Chance and Magic, share a 12-acre field right next to my house with a gate leading into my garden, where I have a small stable-yard and stables.



I'm very lucky to have the horses so close and I can call them from my garden, and they will come trotting eagerly down to me, as they know there will always be a treat of some kind for them. Every morning, they wait at the gate and come in and have some breakfast, and Dali having appointed himself leader of the herd, tries to be first in the gate. Even when the others get there before him, they will always stand back and wait politely for him to go through first!

Unfortunately, Dali suffers from sweet itch, which most horse owners will know, has to be the most frustrating and infuriating condition for a horse to have – and that's just from the owner's point of view!

For the horse it's a nightmare of constant itching and having to try and relieve it on any available fencepost, tree or building, sometimes resulting in raw, bald patches. Sweet itch usually occurs in the summer months, but Dali appears to be affected all year round. There is no cure, but there are many lotions, potions and creams available which claim to help and there is even a vaccination which has recently been made available.

The Cinnamon Trust have gone down every avenue in their efforts to bring Dali some relief, paying for a variety of these, including the vaccination on 2 occasions, but sadly nothing seems to work. The only thing that can be done is to keep as much of Dali as possible covered up, so the Cinnamon Trust has bought him rugs which cover him from ears to tail and some stretchy leggings.

At the beginning of the summer, I remove Dali's winter rug and let him feel the sun on his back until the inevitable happens and he's frantically scratching himself on any available object. Then his summer rug goes on and he's covered from ears to tail again.

Fostering Dali and adding him to my little horse family has been so worthwhile, despite its frustrations and I have discovered much I didn't know about the Cinnamon Trust who have been there for Dali and me all the way. They are a truly wonderful charity who do so much good for animals and their owners. They deserve all the help they can get by way of volunteers and fosterers like me, and I feel truly privileged to be a small part of what the Cinnamon Trust does.



CECILY & DALI

Melissa in London shares her story...

Last Easter we lost our beloved long-haired Chihuahua Tiny. He had heart failure; it was unexpected, sudden and a real shock for our whole family. Tiny was my first ever dog and even though he was small he left a huge hole in our heart; our house was not the same without him.



BLUEBELL

Various family members suggested we get a puppy, but it just felt wrong like we were trying to replace him. I just couldn't do it. Time passed; we got on with life, but our home still didn't feel right.

I received an unexpected email from Jo at The Cinnamon Trust with a photo of Bluebell, a chocolate brown long-haired Chihuahua. As soon as I saw her picture I burst into tears. I read the email that informed me that Bluebell's owner had died & she needed a forever home. It was in that moment that I knew I was ready. Ready to offer a forever home to Bluebell.

I'm happy to say she has fitted into our family like she has been living with us for years. When we are out on walks, she wants to go up and say hi to everyone she meets. She is always rewarded with lots of attention and loving.

Interestingly she seems to target people who are scared of dogs the most. She always wins them over though. A few people have suggested she would make a great therapy dog due to her relaxed demeanor, gentle nature and love of people.

Bluebell makes us laugh everyday with her love of cuddly toys. So far, she has adopted a duck, a cat and a furry snake all of which she has taken from my son's bed and claimed as her own. She trots around the house with a large fluffy cat teddy in her mouth, being so small you can imagine how comical this looks.

She makes the cutest noises when she's happy, little piggy sounds. She also snores when she is super relaxed and laying on her back. Bluebell is the most affectionate, trusting, calm dog I've ever know. We have developed a strong bond already and I can't imagine not having her in our lives; our home is complete.

Thank you, Cinnamon Trust, for thinking of us, Bluebell is our perfect dog.

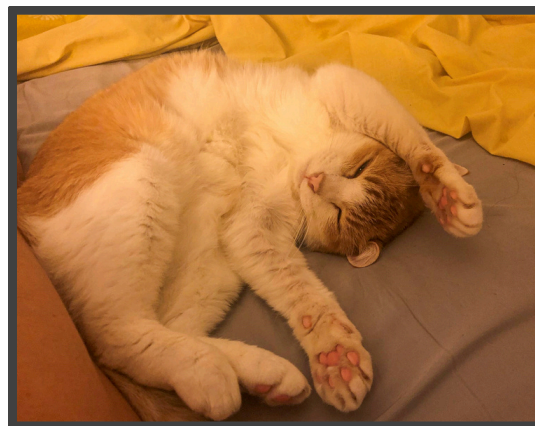
Forever Fosterer Emma writes...

I stumbled across the Cinnamon Trust while doing an online search for cat adoption, my old rescue cat had passed away and I felt ready to give a home to another. I was thrilled to talk to the Trust and find out all about the incredible charity.

A few short weeks later Millie arrived, a pretty tortoiseshell and white cat. She settled in straight away, very much a one-person cat, she did not like strangers! Sadly, we were only together a short time when Millie became very unwell and had to be given final sleep.

GEORGIE

In April 2022 the beautiful ginger and white Georgie arrived, she disappeared under the desk in the sitting room for 4 days, refusing to come out, eat or drink. Eventually her grumbling stomach got the better of her and she came out, we haven't looked back (or under the desk) since!



Georgie is very chatty, quite needy, loves a cuddle, has a wonderful loud purr and can communicate her wants extremely effectively! I know exactly what she's telling me..."feed me", "sit down so I can sit on you", "change my water" (Georgie much prefers her own glass of water on the bathroom floor)," isn't it time to open the sitting room door and watch TV? " "bedtime".

She's a wonderful old character, still full of energy, loves jumping onto the garden table to sunbathe, sleeping on my bed, being around the house, being a crazy cat and playing with her toys. She pretended she didn't know what a cat flap was for at least a year until I caught her sneaking out, it was with great joy I could get rid of the litter tray, she now very happily pops in and out but does prefer the door to be opened for her!!

I absolutely love the fact that the animals the Trust foster out are being cared for and the previous owners can be assured their beloved pets are being looked after and loved by their new families. I recommend the Cinnamon Trust to everyone.

Graham tells us about his time with Forever Foster dog, Katie...

I've had Katie for almost 4 years now and she has transformed my life completely. We are inseparable; the unconditional love she gives is priceless.

It was a friend who put me onto the Cinnamon Trust, so I put in an application to become a dog walker for people who were unable to exercise their dog, this gave me a taste for getting my own dog. A short while later I was given the opportunity to short term foster Bobby, who's owner needed to go into hospital, within days of returning Bobby I was asked if I would foster Katie, I immediately said yes, it was one of the best decisions I have made.

Katie arrived and within a few weeks she had settled in, I often feel it's Katie's house and I'm the lodger, she has run of the whole house and a large garden, together with a minimum of two walks a day, she is thoroughly spoilt.

Katie came to me when she was 10 years old, she is now 13 and shows signs of slowing down, yes she sleeps a little longer, but she will walk forever, we regularly walk between 4 and 7 miles per day even in the rain; wellies and a waterproof jacket for me and a coat for Katie, with a nice dry towel hanging in the porch for when we return.

A typical day starts with Katie normally wanting to go out in the garden, then it's breakfast time, at around 8am we're getting restless so time for a walk, but not before a game with one of her toys. Then it's "come on dad, you've had your breakfast, where's my walk?" and "where will we go today? Will it be the woods? a walk by the river? maybe the common? or the sports centre? Come on dad, BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!" Katie is so excited, high viz on, harness on, lead clipped up and we're off, sometimes we're not back for 2 to 3 hours, Katie is well known and we often bump into someone and have a chat, we occasionally pop in to a friend for coffee, and you've guessed it, Katie gets all the attention and some scooby snacks.



GRAHAM & KATIE

It's now late morning so we return home to prepare lunch, depending on what I have Katie sits giving me those sad eyes, as only she can, "come on dad what about me?" We have a well-earned rest after lunch. Who needs a clock! around 4pm Katie is awake letting me know it's time for our walk, now! So off we go on our second walk normally for about an hour.

Home again and Katie knows it's teatime, luckily at the moment she is not on any medication, but I give her joint and wellbeing supplements. Every evening, we both settle down, Katie knows it's scooby snack time, so if she's lucky, one young lady gets spoilt!

When Katie first came to me, she would jump on the bed, but as she is now older she has a couple of cool mats and a bedspread on the floor; and that is a typical day in our life together.

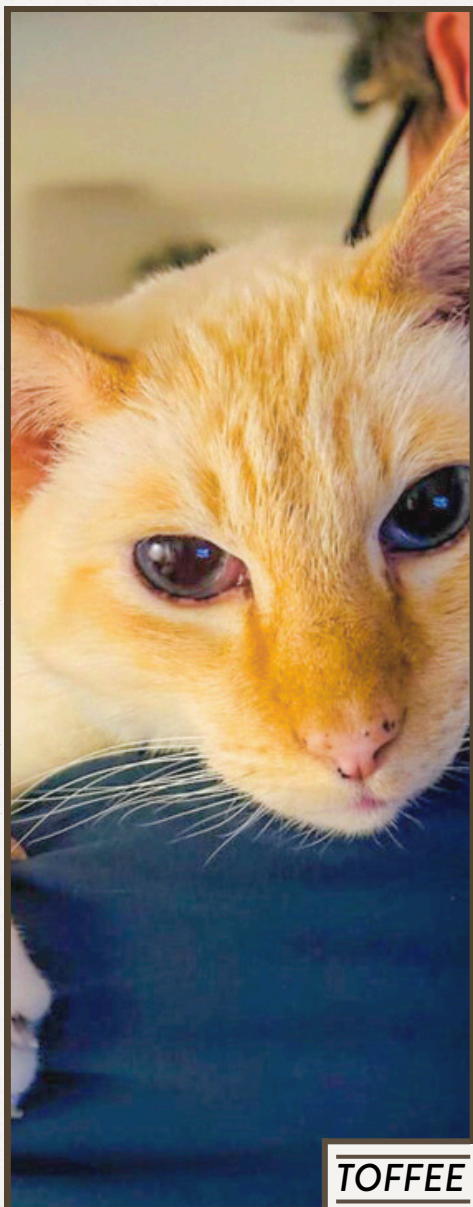
Giving love as a fosterer will generate so much more in return. I cannot thank The Cinnamon Trust enough for giving me the chance to take care of Katie and give her a home and hopefully many more years of happiness, it will break my heart if I lose her, we are a team.

Julie in Sussex writes...

My journey with The Cinnamon Trust began many years ago after my 20-year-old cat passed away. My vet suggested that I become a Forever Foster for the Cinnamon Trust and care for pets whose elderly owners could no longer care for them. I have not looked back since and am now fostering my fourth cat.

Fostering is extremely rewarding for the foster parent and for the animal and gives the pets owner peace of mind knowing that their beloved pet is being loved and looked after.

My first foster was a middle aged, black & white cat called Magic. On arrival, Magic shot behind a cupboard and would only come out briefly to eat, drink and use the litter tray before shooting back to his hiding place. After 3 weeks, Magic changed his hiding place to under a bed. I spent several evenings lying on the floor next to the bed reassuring him that he had nothing to be frightened off. Over time Magic would let me stroke him, and as his confidence grew, he started venturing out from under the bed and slowly started exploring the house. Once 100% sure of his surroundings he decided that he had landed on his paws and soon discovered the cosy blanket on the sofa, both our laps, and finally our bed! Magic lived his retirement in a loving home, until he very sadly became ill and was given final rest.



TOFFEE

Foster two was a senior, ginger and white cat named Jane. She was very overweight when she arrived so under veterinary guidance Jane was put on a reduced calorie diet and settled into her new home almost immediately. She loved nothing more than lying in front of the fire on a cold winter night or sitting in the garden in the summer listening to the birds. Cancer sadly took Jane away from us.

Else was my third foster; an older, black and white cat. Her owner had sadly passed away. Although timid, Else soon settled into our quiet household and sought out all the best sunny places to sleep. She enjoyed lying in the sun and her nightly grooming session followed by a Lick-e-lik treat and would follow us around expressing herself vocally in the evening until she had been groomed. At the age of 18 (126 in cat years) the decision was made to have put her to sleep at home as her health had declined.

My current foster cat Toffee is a 12-year-old Siamese whose owner was hospitalised and very sadly passed away whilst in hospital. As a breed, Siamese are very social and loyal cats, who form a strong bond with their pet parent and enjoy being around people. On arrival, Toffee was depressed, severely dehydrated, and constipated and was required to spend time at the local vets. Toffee was initially very needy and wanted to be carried around or sat on our laps 24/7.

Fast forward 3 months and Toffee is unrecognisable. His constipation is under control with diet and medication, and he is a very confident and vocal cat, whose favourite pastime is spent sitting on his heated pad on his cat tower, watching the world go by! He now enjoys playing with his toys and being brushed. His nightly sleeping place is snuggling up on my pillow, purring with contentment. He is a very handsome boy with a gorgeous nature and is loved by all who meet him.

The Cinnamon Trust provides the best care to pet owners, as well as the provision of lifelong care for pets who outlive their owners. By becoming a short term or Forever Foster parent, you are supported by a network of staff and nurses who care deeply about all animals that come into their care and who have a wealth of experience & knowledge, and are very supportive, and extremely caring.

Fostering can 'change that one pet's world' and 'help find their forever home'. I would recommend fostering to anyone who loves cats and hope that by sharing my past & current experience(s), it encourages others to foster too.

Forever Fosterer Christine in West Yorkshire writes...

Sue, a 12-year-old Jack Russell Terrier, came into my life when I volunteered to dog walk for the Cinnamon Trust during lockdown in March 2020. I walked her twice a week as her elderly owner, Brian, was infirm and couldn't walk Sue far at all. I loved taking her out as she was lively, full of character and loved chasing her ball. It was great to see her having so much fun and burning off energy (as was I) and it was very satisfying to feel I was helping her and her owner.

Unfortunately, Brian became terminally ill in Spring 2021, I spoke to The Cinnamon Trust and offered short term foster care for Sue. Brian said this gave him real peace of mind whilst he was in hospital, knowing Sue was safe and with someone she knew. Sadly, Brian died soon after and I asked CT if I could forever foster Sue as we had built up a bond and I didn't want to let her go.

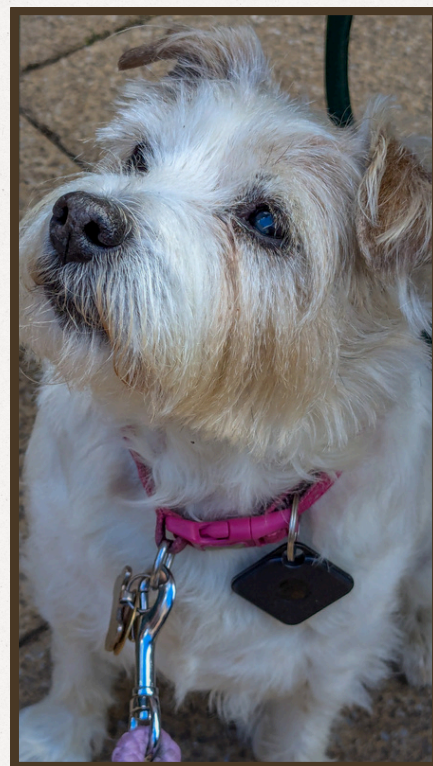
I think that Cinnamon Trust is a wonderful service as it reassures owners that if they are ill or after they pass away their pet

will be well cared for. In addition, the veterinary treatment that CT fund means that pets are looked after for the rest of their lives. The charity is wonderful as Sue gets exactly what she needs health wise; I get health advice from them and supplements sent if Sue needs them.

SUE

I love Sue to bits. She is very cuddly, loving and loyal with the whole family but also has an hilarious character and is full of mischief and fun. Her favourite pastimes are pushing shoes, washing baskets and food bowls around with her nose and also sitting for hours next to our compost bin in the hope of spotting a rat (she is a Jack Russell after all!). Sue's face is very expressive, so we are in no doubt what she is thinking/feeling, so much so that our vet has named her Side Eye Sue! She also has our son's Retriever completely under her control, but he still follows her around adoringly!

When we go on holiday Sue is well cared for and has a lovely bond with her temporary fosterers. This is a great service that CT provides and also gives us peace of mind (especially as Sue has never stayed in kennels before).



I feel incredibly lucky to have Sue in my life and would like to think that Brian knows how much she is loved. I thoroughly recommend getting involved with CT if you love animals, either as a walker, short term fosterer or as a forever fosterer. It's such a valuable service for all involved.

Forever Foster mum, Trudy writes...

I first heard about the Cinnamon Trust from my friend Dawn, who has been a volunteer walker for about 10 years now. Knowing me as well as she does, Dawn knows I love to rescue and give any dog a loving home. Whatever their disability or age I feel I can offer a loving home to a 'special' dog.

I lost my best friend Dolly, in March last year. Feeling that a house is not a home without a fur baby I was lost without a dog to love & care for... they leave such an empty space.

I contacted The Cinnamon Trust to offer myself as a Forever Foster to 'any' dog and within a few days they found Andymac for me. Oh my goodness, did I luck out here. He is just the sweetest, chilled dog you could hope to have. Loves everyone, loves all dogs, which I do have to be careful with as he will just approach any dog, no matter the size or breed! He enjoys his walks, including around our local park where he's met lots of new friends and loves lazing around for the rest of the day.



Andymac is a very special little man indeed. Suffering with deafness, Epilepsy, hip dysplasia & a droopy right eye with a cataract, however none of these ailments hold this little guy back. I loved him before I even met him and now, well, he is just the best dog I could have the joy of looking after.

Andymac has been with us for almost a year, and we've had the best time, he has settled in just great. He does exactly as he pleases with me, has the run of the house & enjoys his little garden. I even got a new mug to match him and add to my collection.

TRUDY & ANDYMAC

Gold Awards

The following volunteers have received a Gold Award for their exceptional service:

Graham & Susan Dent (East Sussex), **Colin Linsey** (Northamptonshire), **Chris & Julie Norris** (Cumbria), **Annette Charlton and family** (Lancashire), **Paul & Cheryl Dixon** (Clwyd), **Gillian Mason** (Suffolk), **Honor Page** (Suffolk), **Sally Mohammed** (West Midlands), **Don Birch & Lindsay Spalding** (Norfolk), **Diane Jones** (Clwyd), **Glynis Harding** (Devon), **Jenny Thornton** (West Midlands), **Lindsay Wratten** (Kent), **Linda Mavin** (Cornwall).

Long Service Awards

The following volunteers have received a Long Service Award for volunteering with us for over 10 years:

Steve Parry & Catharine Passmore (Somerset), **Helen Gray** (Cornwall), **Angela Rose** (Hampshire), **Kate Denning** (Hampshire), **Elizabeth Philip** (Cornwall), **Jude Atkinson** (Leicestershire), **Jan Whitehouse** (county), **Rachel Pavitt** (London), **Rachel McQuilliam** (Oxfordshire), **Joe Kirk** (Sussex), **Victoria Green** (Suffolk), **Debbie James** (Cornwall), **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset), **Kathryn Furnell** (Wiltshire), **Ali McClean** (Dorset), **Denise Tinley** (Derbyshire), **Cathy Cameron** (Yorkshire), **Catherine Bashford** (Devon), **Lesley Laws** (Essex), **Kay Thomson** (Cornwall), **Andrea Aldam** (Devon), **Kenneth & Lesley Willis** (Dorset), **Kate Chown** (Warwickshire), **Olwen Gillespie** (Somerset), **Megan Hutcheson** (Worcestershire), **Sharon Blunt** (Staffordshire), **Tonja Fritz-Johnson** (Oxfordshire), **Jon Fox** (Surrey), **Richard Gamwell** (Cheshire), **Jess Whitworth** (Devon), **Solja Sorvali** (Gloucestershire), **Heather Lomas** (Merseyside), **Sharon Whiting** (Oxfordshire), **Caroline Ward** (Hertfordshire), **Ramila Patel** (Leicestershire), **Rosemary Salter** (Shropshire), **Andrew Ellams** (Cheshire), **Christine Ashmore** (West Midlands), **Angi Beckett** (Yorkshire), **Martina Haughey** (Bedfordshire), **Brooke Andrews** (Oxfordshire), **Kari Allen** (East Sussex), **Jacqueline Harris** (Devon), **Jeffrey & Sally Street** (Somerset), **Jackie Harnby** (Lancashire), **Richard & Lizzie Suttle** (Suffolk), **Sara Flynn** (Hertfordshire), **Zoya Islip** (Cornwall), **Robert Frost & Rosanna Harvey** (Dorset), **Peta O'Donovan** (Devon), **Sandra Smith** (Derbyshire), **Jo Bean** (London), **Laura Buckley** (Gloucestershire), **Cathy Newcombe** (London), **Paula Metcalfe** (West Yorkshire), **Kay Barton** (Cumbria), **Susan Parton** (Kent), **Mandy Richardson** (Yorkshire), **Sarah Hewitt** (Greater Manchester), **Jane Simons** (Worcestershire), **Jill Norman** (London), **Lise Ruane** (Norfolk), **Paul Francis & Susan Lockwood** (Merseyside), **Dawn Swindell** (Derbyshire), **Marianne Packer** (Dorset), **Susan Howell** (Buckinghamshire), **Emma Stevenson** (Yorkshire), **Margaret Godwin** (Cornwall), **Ian & Jill Clay** (Staffordshire), **Alix Whiffen** (Gloucestershire), **Susan Cox** (Essex), **Christine Marshall** (North Yorkshire), **Ryan Swiers** (Tyne & Wear), **Amanda Shock** (Devon), **Sarah Hannafin** (West Sussex).

Owner Nominated Awards

And the following have been nominated for a special Owner Nominated Award:

Sharon Bates (Devon), **Christine Ruffles** (Sussex), **Ann Goldstone** (Somerset), **Samantha Pratt** (Somerset), **Sue Mitchell** (Pembrokeshire).



Pet Profiling



If you are worried about the future of your pet and have no secure forward plan, call our Pet Profile Team and speak to Wendy or Penny on 01736 758706 or email petprofile@cinnamon.org.uk

Poppy came to stay with me for a fortnight and never went home. Her owner had inherited her when his mother died and as a busy barrister found it hard to give her the care and attention she needed. That was almost two years ago. I loved her from the very beginning. She is a cross between a Yorkie and a Border Terrier. Her eyes sparkle and she is fit and well.

Throughout my life, I have had many dogs – an Airedale, two Spaniels, a Bull Terrier, a Pekinese, a Staffie and a Golden Retriever. Now in my 80's I never dreamt I could have yet another of Man's Best Friends. But Poppy too is an elderly lady, originally a rescue dog and I believe she may be 14.

As we are both in the Autumn of our years I needed a safety blanket for her if anything should happen to me. What a blessing it is to be registered with The Cinnamon Trust. It was made so easy for me. Everyone I have been in contact with has been so kind. The fact that Poppy will be fostered is so reassuring. Now at night we both have a good night's sleep together.

BARBARA & POPPY



Volunteer Dawn writes a touching tribute to Jean who passed away in July 2024...

I first met Jean whilst carrying out an assessment on the beautiful Bailey for The Cinnamon Trust. Within a couple of weeks I'd offered my services to walk Bailey which was the start of a lovely friendship between Jean and myself.

After Bailey's walks, as the months went by, Jean started inviting me into her house to have a natter over a cup of coffee. Sadly in January last year Jean was given a terminal cancer diagnosis and her first thought was that of Bailey. She adored her beloved Bailey and was so worried of what would happen to him when she passed away.

I discussed with Jean, that if she filled out a profile form on Bailey, then on Jeans passing, Bailey would be taken care of by the Cinnamon Trust. This brought great comfort to Jean as Bailey was her biggest worry, and now she could find peace in knowing that no one else could take Bailey apart from the Cinnamon Trust. We also let her solicitor know that this was to be included in her will.

In the final weeks of Jeans life, my contact at the Cinnamon Trust, Debbie, was a real help and comfort to both Jean and myself. Debbie kept in close contact with us both; where she'd often have calls with me crying down the phone.

In the final hours of Jeans life her only concern was of Bailey, where I reassured her that everything was in place and I'd keep my promise that no one but the Cinnamon Trust was allowed to have him. I told Jean that Bailey would be loved and looked after until it would be his time to join her. Jean squeezed my hand and smiled and we both shed a tear. Jean sadly passed away at home with Bailey and myself by her side.

It was decided that Bailey's forever home would be in Cornwall and he'd spend his retirement at the Cinnamon Trust Sanctuary 'Poldarves'. A lovely man named Colin came to collect Bailey and my heart broke a little bit more, but as Bailey drove away I whispered to Jean 'I've kept my promise Jean, now you sleep tight'.

Bailey has settled in really well in his new home. He's making friends with the other residents, and the wonderful manager Eileen is sending me regular videos and photos of my beloved Bailey that's helping the big void he's left in my life.

The Cinnamon Trust is a truly wonderful charity and I'm so proud to be part of it!



BAILEY & ROSSI

A Legacy of Love



In our 40th year all of us at The Cinnamon Trust would like to take this opportunity to reflect on, and thank, the many supporters who through their kindness and generosity have made our work possible. We remember, with heartfelt thanks, those who have died, leaving legacies to The Cinnamon Trust and who have enabled us to reach this milestone anniversary of our charity.

We thank all the families and friends who have shared memories, tears and the wishes of their loved ones with us and to celebrate the beautiful unconditional love that they and their pets have shared.

You have enabled us to help over 153,000 pets and owners, pay over £750,000 annually in veterinary fees, support the expenses of thousands of Volunteers, and to provide 24 hour care in our two sanctuaries for pets who need specialist care.

Our Free Will scheme helps to turn your gift into a future legacy of love. With your help in leaving a gift in your Will, The Cinnamon Trust looks forward to helping even more pets and owners to stay together.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL **LEGACY@CINNAMON.ORG.UK**
VISIT OUR WEBSITE **CINNAMON.ORG.UK/WILLS-LEGACIES**
OR TELEPHONE OUR LEGACY TEAM ON **01736 809 722**



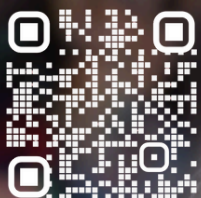
A loving future made possible by your heartfelt gift

For 40 years, we've been a beacon of hope for countless pets and their owners nationwide.

But our work wouldn't be possible without the ongoing generosity of others.

With your support, we can continue to provide hands-on assistance and lifelong pet care to those who rely on us.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you're ensuring that our mission can live on for generations to come.



Scan the QR code
to find out more

Registered Charity No.1134680

Founders Tree

To celebrate the life of Averil, we are delighted to announce our first Founder's Trees; created by Cornish artist Tom Leaper. There is a tree at both Hillside and Poldarves Farm and Averil will be honoured with a plaque on the plinth of each tree.



FOUNDERS TREE



Beech Leaf

Birch Leaf



Oak Leaf

Both trees are situated in our Sanctuary memorial gardens, each departed resident pet will have their name and date of passing engraved on a Memory Leaf. The leaves will be attached to the trees and will eventually flow over the plinth to create a cascade of fallen leaves.

We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to memorialise a loved one, two or four legged, in this beautiful and unique way. A minimum donation of £100 allows you to choose your preferred Memory Leaf and which Sanctuary's Tree you would like your leaf to be added to.

Every bequest received by The Trust will be commemorated with a Memory Leaf to thank them. Our first Memory Leaf is for Mrs Gillian Saunders; remembered by her daughter Dr Jenny McCann and family.

"We have always been an animal-mad family and cannot imagine life without pets. Your fabulous work will have been something that she would have been very proud to support."

We are extremely pleased that Mum left a legacy in her will – she left money to three other charities too, but I am pretty sure that The Cinnamon Trust will have been her favourite. We are delighted that The Cinnamon Trust will benefit from my mother's estate, and we know that the money could not be put to better use."

Let's Celebrate 40 Years of The Cinnamon Trust!

We are very excited about our 40th anniversary plans for 2025, and we hope that you join in with one of the upcoming events or plan your own fundraising spectacularly to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

Fundraising not only helps us to raise funds to continue our work, but it also helps spread the word to those in need of help and encourages new volunteers to join the team. Together we have changed the lives of countless older and terminally ill people and their beloved pets. It's a legacy we can all be proud of, and one that we want to continue to nurture and grow.



The Big Walk

Returning for the third year, is The Big Walk! Taking place on **Monday 5th May**, there is still time to join your local Big Walk and to gather some sponsorships. Taking part will mean the world to us and will make our 40th year celebrations even more special! To find out more visit our website and check our fantastic new events page where you will find our Big Walk map and all the information you will need to let us know you will be attending a Big Walk or if you would like to hold an event of your own. Or you can contact our events team, email bigwalk@cinnamon.org.uk or call Mandy or Sally on 01736 758 701.



Everyone who attends a Big Walk event will receive a special anniversary goodie bag so don't delay and register now! The bags have some lovely treats provided by one of our Big Walk sponsors "The Pets Larder Cornwall" as well as a commemorative dog bandana and other surprise gifts.

BROMHAM BIG WALK 2024

Our HQ Big Walk in Hayle will be even bigger than previous years! In addition to the traditional Big Walk which this year will start from the Recreation Park in Hayle we are taking over the whole park for the day, there will be a huge marquee with lots of stalls selling pet related items, dog deli stalls serving puppachinos and we will be joined by lots of local animal charities so we can show our support to other local animal heroes. There will be a dog show and a demonstration by Cornwall Search Dogs. The whole event will be compèred by Cornwall's Rewind Radio. If you're local or fancy a trip to our beautiful county, join us and celebrate with us, its going to be fun!

Summer Fun

Dog shows are great fun and an amazing way to raise money whilst meeting canine companions of all shapes and sizes. As part of our anniversary celebrations we have produced a ready-made dog show kit, we have rosettes and goodie bags to make a show extra special. For a dog show kit and advice pack please call the events team.



The Cinnamon Treasure Trail

We've taken inspiration from a past fundraiser previously called "The Pirate's Trail" and created a brand new The Cinnamon Treasure Trail. This summer our cheeky corgi mascot will be very busy, jaunting up and down the country, having fun and hiding secret treasures. Follow our socials for weekly Corgi Clues and hopefully get your paws on some loot!



£40 for 40

We have a special incentive to fundraise for our anniversary year – every fundraiser that achieves £40 or more will receive an exclusive Cinnamon Trust Corgi, designed by Charlie Bears. So, what are you waiting for? If you have an idea for a fundraiser, **let us help you put the FUN in fundraising** and make your idea a reality. We have a dedicated team ready, so please call Mandy or Sally on 01736 758 701 or email forty@cinnamon.org.uk.

If you need some inspiration, here are a few ideas to spark your imagination: organise a fun dog show, costume contest or group dog walk with entry fees being donated to Cinnamon. Host a coffee morning, afternoon, dinner party, games night, a pet themed quiz or BBQ. Gain sponsorship for climbing a local landmark, doing a timed run, or a world record attempt. Run a car boot, jumble sale, bake sale or craft stall with proceeds going to The Trust.

Go BIGGER!

For those who have BIG ideas, we salute you! Whether you need a running vest for a marathon, help with making an online fundraiser, or simply want to chat through an idea, please get in touch and tell us how we can help your BIG idea happen!

This is the year to pull out all the stops and be creative. Every penny counts and is greatly appreciated. With your continued support and enthusiasm, we look forward to making our 40th year the best one yet.

Come and join us!

All our exciting events and forms are on our website so please pay us a visit!

We will be raising our banner at several pet-centric events through the year, showcasing our new Events Trailer.

The Big Walk on Bank holiday **Monday 5th May** is nationwide!

The Big Doggie Do in Milton Keynes on **Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May**

Dogstival in The New Forest on **Saturday 31st May & Sunday 1st June**

DogFest Hertfordshire on **Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June**

The Royal Norfolk Show is on **Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th June**

DogFest Oxfordshire on **Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th July**

The Stithians Show in Cornwall on **Monday 14th July**

DogFest Bristol on **Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th September**

DogFest Yorkshire on **Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September**



Thank you to our 40th Anniversary Sponsors!

Our main sponsor is The Pets Larder Cornwall

Together, Katy and Andy's combined experience in pet care, extreme sports, and sustainability shape The Pets Larder's mission to provide pet owners with products that promote wellness and eco-friendliness.



www.thepetslarder.co.uk

We are so happy to support The Cinnamon Trust for its 40th year anniversary celebrations. We only partner with those who share our core values of promoting happy and healthy lifestyles for four legged friends!

Seasalt Cornwall have also contributed to our Anniversary celebrations and have sponsored a very exciting special event which will be launched in the summer.

SEASALT
CORNWALL

Amazing Fundraising

We want to celebrate everyone who raises money for us but, apart from this bumper issue, we need to try and reduce our carbon footprint and make our newsletters available online and digitally.

Our website now has a thank you page dedicated and featuring all of our fabulous fundraisers and celebrating all the creative and imaginative ways people raise money for The Trust. You are our heroes and we could not carry on our work without our fundraisers working hard to donate money while also spreading the word.

Here are a few stories we would feature to show you some of the amazing things that have taken place over the past 6 months. Please visit the events page on our website to see all of the incredible events, shows, talks and other fun things supporters are doing for us.



Veterinary Cards



My name is Mel and I am a Veterinary Receptionist in Hampshire. I rescue ex-battery chickens and own 2 beautiful cats, Luna and Bruno. At work, we had always struggled to source appropriate condolence cards to send to our clients. I sadly lost my Mum in 2021 and then shortly after a very good friend and these experiences deepened my understanding of grief. I began designing heartfelt condolence cards which was a therapeutic process, allowing me to honour their memories while trying to offer comfort to others navigating their own grief.

I was keen for my condolence cards to help support a worthy cause. I chose The Cinnamon Trust Charity because I love their mission to help the elderly and terminally ill to keep their beloved pets by providing practical support through an army of amazing volunteers.

www.veterinarycards.com

I am very grateful to the Cinnamon Trust for believing in me when I first contacted them regarding my cards. Patrick Williams welcomed me to their offices in Hayle and their wonderful sanctuary, Poldarves, where I met some of the lovely staff and resident pets. The Cinnamon Trust also send my cards to their bereaved owners, which is a huge compliment to me.

How One Dog Inspired a Three-Part Fundraiser

Julia's journey with The Cinnamon Trust began as a dog-walking volunteer for Molly. Their paths crossed during the pandemic, a time when Julia was searching for a meaningful way to give back. In her own words:



I came across a Facebook post about dog walking for The Cinnamon Trust. I joined up, and in no time, I was emailed about an 8-year-old Springer Spaniel called Molly who needed walking. That email pretty much changed my life.

Molly eventually found her forever home with Julia after her owner could no longer care for her, and from that moment, their adventures truly began. Julia's fundraising mission started in 2023 when she embarked on her first challenge—climbing Świstowa Czuba in the Tatra Mountains of Poland, raising an incredible £1,136.25.

One of the highlights of their journey was seeing Molly featured in a charity calendar, a moment that filled Julia with pride and sparked the idea of a Cinnamon Trust calendar celebrating precious pets.

In 2024, she created the first Precious Pets calendar and raised £1,410.75. By January 2025, Julia had completed her third fundraiser, selling 150 calendars and raising £3,077.01. **In just 18 months, her total fundraising efforts have reached an astounding £5,624.01.**



At the time of writing this newsletter, we've been given the heartbreaking news about Molly's passing. Molly Moo passed away on 14/02/2025 peacefully wrapped in the embrace and everlasting love of her Mum.

REFLECTING ON HER JOURNEY, JULIA SHARED:

“It’s been an incredible 18 months, and my Molly Moo gave me the determination to carry on, even when it got a little tough. I hope this money will go a little way to help the wonderful animals in your care and the owners that you help.”

Turning love into action: Vinny’s Run

What began as a simple act of kindness grew into a lifelong bond and a remarkable fundraising achievement. Vinny, a volunteer dog walker turned forever fosterer, completed the Celtic Trail Marathon this December to raise money for The Cinnamon Trust, a charity that holds a special place in his heart. Vinny’s journey with us began when he started walking Oreo, a lively Staffy-Collie mix whose owner could no longer manage to take him out. Living nearby, Vinny stepped in and quickly formed a close friendship with Oreo during their weekly walks. Their connection became so strong that when Oreo’s owner was no longer able to care for him, Vinny knew what to do—Oreo found his forever home with him.



VINCENT WITH OREO AND MARLEY

As Oreo’s proud foster dad, Vinny felt a deep desire to give back to the charity that brought them together. His efforts inspired many, helping him raise an impressive £1,136.25. Vinny’s commitment to the cause was clear as he tackled the rugged terrain and unpredictable weather of the Celtic Trail Marathon in Aberdare, Wales. Running not only for Oreo but for all the pets and families supported by The Cinnamon Trust.

Pilot Trades Cockpit for Running Shoes in Half Marathon Challenge

Our volunteer James White ran the Oxford Half Marathon in October, trading his uniform for our running vest and raising £762.50, all while running with a hurt ankle!

The idea for the race came about during a casual evening out with his friend Ali, where a mix of beer and bravado led them to sign up, the next day waking up to a confirmation email about their registration.

Though the decision to run might have been spontaneous, the choice to support The Cinnamon Trust was deeply personal. We asked James to share what was his motivation:



JAMES AFTER THE MARATHON

Running the Oxford Half is a challenge, but it's nothing compared to the struggles many people face daily.

As a previous pet owner myself, I know how much comfort animals can bring, especially during tough times. Volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust has been incredibly rewarding. I've seen how much peace it gives owners to know their pets will be cared for, no matter what.



ARE YOU RUNNING A MARATHON?

If you're running a marathon in support of our cause, we can provide you a vest and all the materials you need to set up your fundraiser. But first, let us know about your run by emailing events@cinnamon.org.uk or calling Mandy and Sally on 01736 758 701.

Pedaling Past Limits: Emily's 42 mile cycle



At just 10 years old, Emily has achieved something extraordinary. Taking on a sponsored cycle ride, Emily and her mum Liz raised an incredible £1,111 far exceeding her initial goal.

What makes her accomplishment even more remarkable is her personal journey leading up to the event. Just a few months ago, Emily was recovering from a leg injury. Her original goal was to cycle 37 miles, but Emily went above and beyond, completing an impressive 42 miles. Her story is a true inspiration, showing what can be achieved with passion, patience and perseverance.



A heartfelt thank you also goes to Emily's amazing mum, Liz, who has been by her side throughout the entire journey. You're both an inspiration, and your effort and generosity will make a great difference for so many.

Carol Orris (Essex) raised an impressive £280 by volunteering her time and expertise as a judge at several local horticultural shows, including the Rettendon Horticultural Society Show, Bellhouse Horticultural Show, and Laindon & District Horticultural Show. Her dedication and support have made a significant impact on our fundraising efforts, and we are incredibly grateful for her contributions.



Picture from the official website

JANET MORGAN

Janet Morgan's heartfelt talk at the Marlbrook & Catshill Friendship Club inspired the audience, raising £97.55. Her words sparked generosity, strengthening the community's support for the charity's mission. Janet also raised another £412.24 by selling plants, and having stalls at other fun community events.

JACQUELINE MOORE

Jacqueline Moore shared the mission of The Cinnamon Trust at Stalham Baptist Church's Ladies Breakfast Club in Norfolk, inspiring kindness and raising £200 to support the charity's work. Jacqueline also raised another £344.33 by fundraising at events such as the Wildlife Festival and two Christmas Fayres.

KAREN MINTO

Karen's dedication and creativity raised a total of £338.25 through a variety of activities. Some of the events included a talk at the Probus Club, a Bring & Buy sale, and two festive events—a Christmas jumper dog walk and a dog-themed Bring & Buy. She also received generous donations from other local supporters.



KATE DIXON

Volunteer Kate Dixon delighted the Lewtrenchard Women's Institute members in Lewdown with her engaging talk, raising £50. The audience was fascinated by the Trust's initiatives, including fostering, pet-friendly care homes, and the sanctuaries.

YVONNE FROST

Yvonne Frost raised £50 by delivering a talk at Carnon Downs Village Hall for the Women's Institute group in Cornwall.

CHRISTINE SUMSION

Christine Sumsion raised £75 by giving a talk at Blake Court in Somerset.



ALL 4 PAWZ

All 4 Pawz, courtesy of Sara Morton, raised an impressive £530 through a collection box and tombola.

PORTHLEVEN FORE STREET CHAPEL

We were chosen as the August 'Charity of the Month' by the Porthleven Fore Street Chapel, who host a charity coffee morning every month. Their generous efforts raised £204.30.

ROZ HARPER

Roz Harper raised a total of £181.90 through her efforts at The Open Farm Sunday and the Big Walk. This included £139 from a stall at The Open Farm Sunday and £42.90 from the collection box at the Big Walk.



COFFEE MORNING AT PORTHLEVEN FORE STREET CHAPEL

JANE SINCLAIR

Jane Sinclair's powerful talk at the Circle of Guide Dog Owners (COGDO) raised an outstanding £2,000. Her heartfelt words captivated the audience, igniting a deep sense of generosity that greatly supported our mission. Jane's passion for the cause and her ability to engage others continue to have a profound impact on the charity, helping us provide crucial support to both pets and their owners.

ALISON WILKERSON

Alison Wilkerson raised an incredible £210 by organising the Perfectly Santa Pawsome Group Dog Walk, bringing dog lovers together for a festive stroll.

HILLSIDE SANCTUARY TEAM

People4Ponies graciously invited us to their event at Quince Honey Farm, where our Hillside team had the privilege of participating and raising £174.25 for the cause. Additionally, our Hillside Sanctuary team took part in the Charlie Bear Fair, raising a further £70.





MIRANDA PENDER

Miranda Pender graced the stage at the Shaftesbury Fringe, raising a wonderful £65 for our cause. Her performance, described as "a light-hearted mix of word and music," captivated the audience, with her image capturing the essence of a radiant and talented artist.

Picture of Miranda from the official Shaftesbury Fringe website



KONG GROUP

KONG Group kindly donated £5,641 as part of their monthly charity initiative. We're incredibly grateful to have been nominated by their sales team and selected as one of the recipients of this generous contribution.



SAJINI WIJETILLEKA

Sajini Wijetilleka kindly donated £75 on behalf of Emma's Doctors with Dogs. This Facebook group for UK doctors with dogs creates a calendar each year featuring members' dogs, with proceeds going to support chosen charities.



ELIZABETH JEAVANS

Liz Jeavans raised £65 by crafting and selling beautiful dog-themed decorations and keyrings.



KILMINORTH COTTAGES

Kilminorth Cottages hosted another wonderful dog meet-up, raising £100! Volunteers David & Catherine Stead and Sue Ball were there on the day to support the event.

DOG SHOWS

SANDIE TRIBE

Sandie Tribe generously sent a cheque donation of £406, raised during an event at the Lamb Hindon. The funds were collected through a lively dog show, raffle, and donations from the pub's staff and locals, making it a true community effort.



LINDSAY SPALDING AND DON BIRCH

Lindsay Spalding and Don Birch from Norfolk attended the Swafeld Hall Dog Show, raising £170. Despite mixed weather, including thunder, hailstorms, and sunshine, the event was a success.

HAYLEY FENWICK

Our dedicated volunteer Hayley Fenwick raised an impressive £88.75 by running stalls at the Trunch Dog Show and Bradfield Cricket Club Fun Dog Show.

EXETER & COUNTY CANINE SOCIETY

Exeter & County Canine Society raised £36 for us by hosting a Stakes class, with all proceeds from the entries donated to support our cause.



DARREN GREEN, PAULA KELLY & KIRSTEN CAMMERATT

Volunteers Darren Green, Paula Kelly, and Kirsten Cammeratt attended the Ramsgate Brewery Fun Day, raising £52. Their booth attracted plenty of interest, with many eager to learn more and offer support.

JOHN FOWLER AT PERRAN VIEW HOLIDAY PARK

John Fowler at Perran View Holiday Park raised a fantastic £335.50 by hosting a series of delightful Dog Shows, bringing together the community in support of our cause.

CAROLINE HENDRA

With the support of our other dedicated volunteer, Pauline Grimes, Caroline raised £110 at a Fun Dog Show, and another £95 by delivering a talk at Barton Women's Institute.

VANNA LEATHART

Vanna raised £75.55 at a Fun Dog Show in South Marston.

JAYNE & PAUL LOADER

Jayne and Paul Loader hosted a stall at a local Christmas Dog Show. They ran a successful tombola and gift stall, with support from Lorraine & Chris Coveney, Jayne's parents, and Cinnamon dogs Bojangles, Ted, and Amy. The event was a festive success, raising £172 in cash, plus additional card payments.

SHEILA FELLOWS-TURNBULL

Sheila Fellows-Turnbull in Sussex attended a Village Dog Show where she raised an impressive £126 for our cause.

DOGS IN NEED AGILITY SOCIETY

Dogs in Need Agility Society, Suffolk, raised a fantastic £1,000 at their committee agility show in Ipswich, where members donated to their chosen charities. One generous supporter selected us but wished to remain anonymous.



LEZLI REES & EXPLORE BY PAW

Lezli Rees and her inspiring initiative, Explore by Paw, have once again made a remarkable impact, raising another £582 for us! More than just scenic walks, these guided adventures bring dog lovers together to explore Warwickshire's hidden countryside, all while supporting animal charities. Thanks to Lezli's leadership, every step taken is a step towards making a difference.



STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK DOG SHOW

Dedicated volunteers Barbara Lonsdale, Simone Morris, Lisa Cook, Nicola Grimes and Neil Bradshaw- attended the Staunton Country Park Dog Show in Havant, raising both £38.55 and awareness of our charity in the community.

Simone shared:

One of the highlights of the day was meeting people interested in walking a dog—some alongside their own, others hoping to enjoy the companionship of a dog without the full-time responsibility. Both are perfect matches for what we offer. Those looking to volunteer came from all walks of life, from schoolchildren (with parental supervision) to individuals over 80. It was wonderful to see such a diverse group eager to get involved.



DOG TRAINING CLUBS

PERSHORE & DISTRICT CANINE TRAINING SOCIETY

The Pershore and District Canine Training Society (Worcestershire) raised £300 for us as their chosen charity.

AVON WORKING DOG TRAINING SOCIETY

Avon Working Dog Training Society generously donated £250 to support our cause.

JULIE PHILLIPS

Julie Phillips raised £60 by organising a raffle at Elm Park Dog Training Club, turning a fun event into a wonderful way to support the cause!

ENFIELD CHACE DOG TRAINING CLUB

Enfield Chace Dog Training Club generously raised another £1,500 through a wonderful mix of social events and heartfelt donations from their dedicated members.

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS DOG TRAINING CLUB

Hastings & St Leonards Dog Training Club generously raised a total of £723 through two wonderful events. A lively and joyous Fun Night and during the celebrations of their 70th anniversary.

HASTINGWOOD DOG TRAINING CLUB

Hastingwood Dog Training Club raised £155 during their delightful September Fun Dog Show, bringing the community together for a great cause.



GLYNIS SADLER

Volunteer Glynis Sadler hosted a charming Charity Afternoon Tea in her garden. With the help of volunteers Gill Mason and Honor Page, they raised an impressive £275 for the cause.



KATIE MCSWEENEY

Katie McSweeney raised £100 through her efforts during our BIG WALK 2024, a donation from the Acton Puzzle Library, as well as a Book Swap organised by her.



EKATERINA DIMITROVA

Ekaterina Dimitrova raised £60 through a Charity Sweepstake at the University of Surrey.



SOPHIA HEATHERINGTON

Sophia Heatherington raised £80 from the proceeds of a coffee morning held at St Just in Roseland and St Mawes churches.

ALISON WHEELER & GILL MASON

Alison Wheeler raised a total of £398.90 through a series of events, including a stall outside Tyler's Tiptree Opticians, the Five Parishes Show, Scruffs, the Tollesbury Christmas Fayre, and the Lakelands Centre. Gill Mason, another devoted volunteer, also frequently joins Alison helping create an incredible stand that draws support and enthusiasm from all who visit.



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We have been joined by some new faces who are settling in well to Sanctuary life. **Molly** is a quiet, little lady who loves a snooze, chin tickles and a scratch behind the ear, she can be very vocal should you pass her by without showing her some love. **Bailey** is a very cuddly little chap who loves everyone and everything. Bailey has a zest for life and is such a happy dog that you can't help but to join in. Smile and the world smiles with you- that's Bailey. **Annie** loves playing with toys and will keep herself occupied throwing all the toys out of the toy basket before choosing one toy and not letting go. **Jonty** has made friends with all of the dogs here and he likes to take himself off around the garden at a very fast trot with his waggy tail. His owner's friend Denise came to visit and Jonty showed her how well he had settled in.



MOLLY



BAILEY



ANNIE



DENISE & JONTY

As soon as the beaches were re-opened to dogs in September, we took advantage of the miles of beautiful beaches that surround us. All of our dogs and team members love to walk and paddle in the sea and sometimes have a well-deserved ice cream.



Poldarves hosted a Bat Night and invited all the HQ team members to come and hopefully see some bats, it was a lovely clear night and everyone enjoyed a warming hot chocolate.

BAT NIGHT



The sheep were moved into the Baby's fields to rotate the pastures. They got on extremely well with her and she enjoyed the company. When they moved back out little **Bridget** our 37 year old pony kept **Baby** company and they both chewed away on the long grass and spent lots of happy hours together.

Autumn came in with her gentle colours and the sanctuary looked gorgeous with all the lovely gold and browns. The dogs love to march and sniff through the leaves and the squirrels like nothing better than to stash away their treasures for winter. We found some of nature's prizes for them; with the giant Shaggy Parasol mushrooms, Puff Ball mushrooms, berries, nuts and pumpkins in abundance. We hid them for enrichment and they have had a great time foraging.



BABY & HER COMPANIONS

A team from Foot Anstey Solicitors came to Poldarves on one of their Community Team days and dug a heart-shaped garden and planted an apple tree in our Memorial Garden. Everyone managed to remain cheerful despite the rain!



FOOT ANSTEY APPLE TREE



The dogs and the team had a magical Halloween. Lots of fun was had by all, including pairing up to see who had the best couples costumes and a Pumpkin carving competition.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES



Christmas is a very exciting time at the sanctuary. The dogs and team all go on special outings to choose the Christmas trees. They love to have treats at the local garden centre and enjoy the excitement, new smells and decorations. Christmas day starts with present opening, each resident has a gift chosen especially for them, and finishes with Christmas dinner which includes turkey and doggie style trimmings. It's a peaceful, cosy time of year with the dogs snuggled and cuddled on the sofas, warmed by log fires, twinkling lights on the tree and Christmas movies adding to the ambiance. This year Santa's Elves gave us a pet friendly snow machine so that the dogs could chase the snowflakes, as snow is very rare in Cornwall.



POLDARVES CHRISTMAS

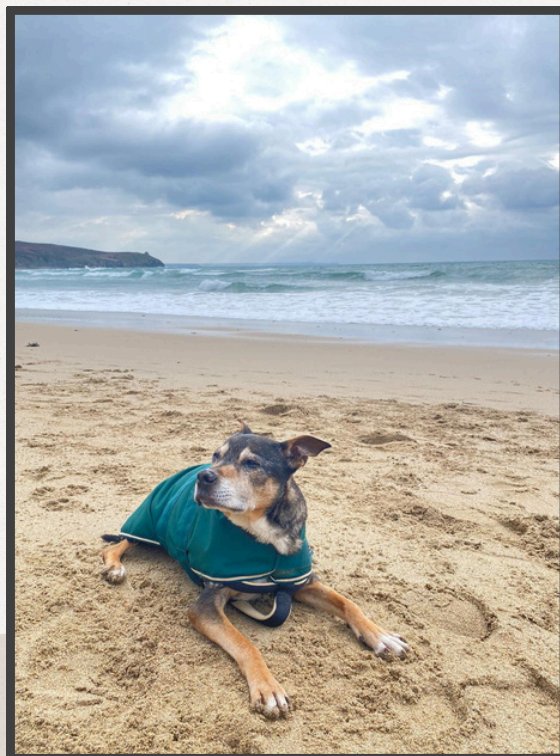


Christmas is a time of remembrance and we think of some dear friends who have left us, leaving their footprints on our hearts, never forgotten. **Parsley**, 15y cat, a gentle, loving soul. **Maisie**, 17y Border Collie, our big hearted, brave girl. **Chloe**, 15y Dachshund, the Princess of Poldarves. **Mouse**, 16y Jack Russell, a sweet and sassy lady who made us smile everyday. **Toby**, 10y Cocker Spaniel, a bouncy, waggy-tailed boy. **Daisy**, 15y cat, our loving, purring girl. Our Founder's Tree is in our garden ready for the engraved leaves honouring those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.



Our thoughts turn to the new year, to Spring approaching and the beauty that brings to our peaceful spot in the Cornish countryside. We leave you with a photo of our resident Rossi who turned 17 in January, here is the birthday boy enjoying a walk in his favourite spot.

ROSSI



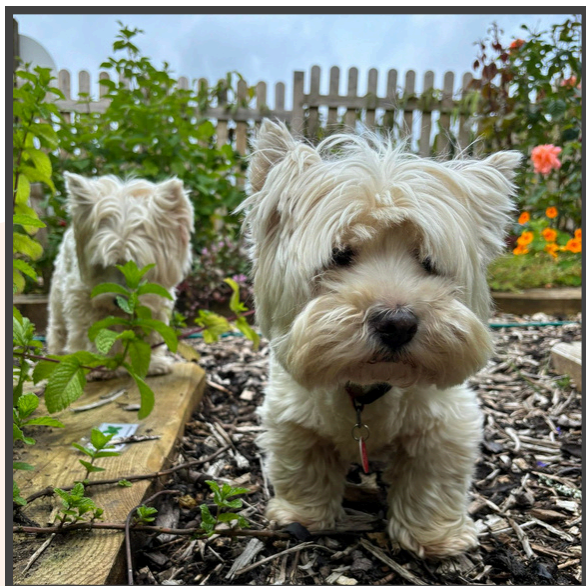
Hillside Farm Sanctuary

We would like to tell you the story of our new lodge and the kindness of a special man called Gethin. Gethin was a dog-lover and was inseparable from his devoted companion, a Labrador named Achillies. Sadly Gethin became unwell unexpectedly and passed away too soon at the young age of 39. His one concern was Achillies and thankfully his family stepped in and continue caring for Achillies; a beautiful, loving reminder of their dearly departed. Gethin was aware of The Cinnamon Trust and our good work, he kindly left a legacy which we put to very good use by building a lodge for dogs with special needs.

A place where dogs can be loved and cared for on a temporary basis until they are reunited with their owners. It seemed only fitting that the lodge was named 'Gethin's Place' in honor of his kindness and compassion.



GETHIN & ACHILLIES



Our first residents in Gethin's Place were **Abi & Holly**; it was a delight to help care for these two sweethearts and even better to see them reunited with their owner a few weeks later. **Lisa** had a short stay before heading home to her owner but was a charmer, self-assured and a Jack Russell through and through. **Percy** came to stay and was a sweet, sensitive boy and an absolute treasure. Luckily, he was able to go home quickly and although we miss his smushy face, we're happy that he is happy!

ABI & HOLLY

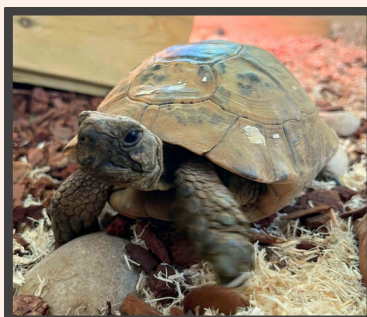
PERCY



As well as our short-term guests, our Sanctuary family has grown with new members. **Pippy** is a Spur-Thighed Tortoise and a fun guy. At 87 years young he has lived through more history than most of us ever will.

If only he could talk...
He would probably ask for more salad...

PIPPY



Katie, a Bruxellois Griffon is a little firecracker and clearly thinks she is the boss, who are we to argue? Our feline family has increased with the arrival of **Kizzy** and **Tilly** who have settled themselves in at Hillside, Kizzy is a confident soul and Tilly has a beautiful peaceful personality. And then further again with five Cornish Rex cats; **Fudge**, **Romy**, **Hector**, **Loki** & **Odin** are some of the silliest, chattiest, most gorgeous cats we've ever met.



KATIE



KIZZY



ODIN



LOKI



BRAMLEY & SADIE

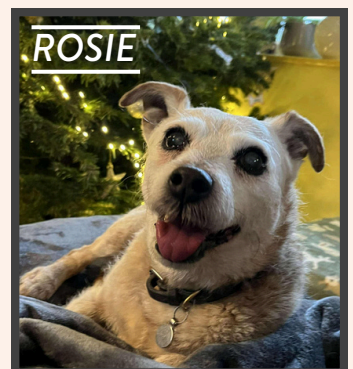


HECTOR

Bramley and **Sadie**, a father-daughter duo of Cairn Terriers are a delight; Sadie is full of beans while dad Bramley is a gentleman. **Rosie**, a Jack Russell, is a shy yet endearing girl and often sits quietly with Bramley on a comfy sofa. A dog isn't just for Christmas, but as far as presents go, **Pickle**'s seasonal arrival made for one fantastic package! True to his spaniel nature, this lovable goof has easily found some favourite spots to snooze.



PICKLE



ROSIE



This year we decided to host our most ambitious event yet: Hillside County Show. This one day spectacular was a big team effort to include all of the animals in some way. We had a horse show, a dog show, a cat photography competition, and more. What country show is complete without good food? Our very own 'Ben's Burgers' van served eager dogs and humans alike with delicious offerings that went down a storm.

Spooky season saw us celebrating in style with a spine-chilling soiree which included fortune telling for the residents and team alike. "I see waggy tails and bowls of turkey in our future..."



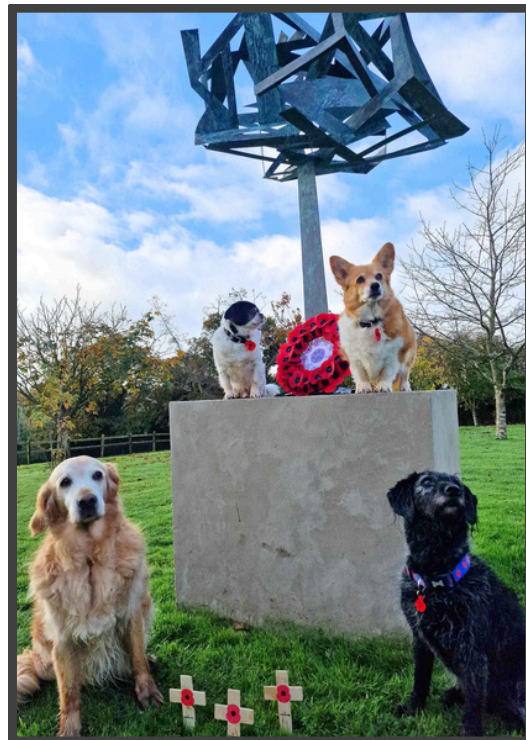
The corgis **Becky** and **Bonnie** had a great time representing the Trust at one of our local dog shows. Not only did they draw an adoring crowd at our stand, but they went on to both win special rosettes in the dog show! Well done girls!



BECKY & BONNIE WITH THEIR ROSETTES



HILLSIDE HALLOWEEN

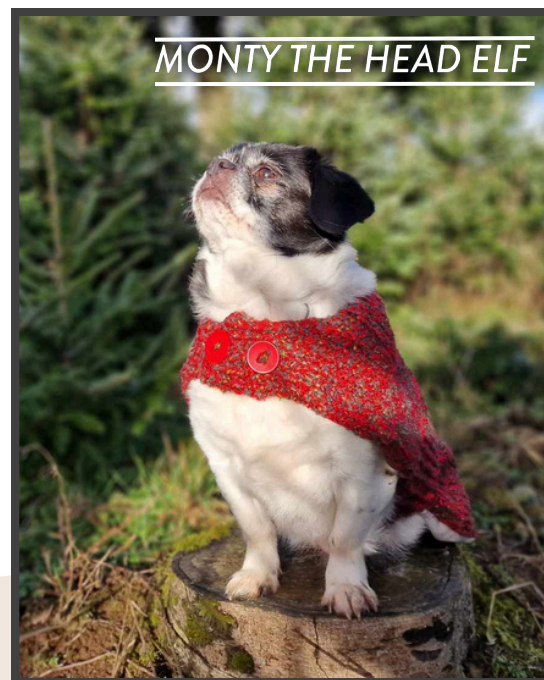


REMEMBERANCE DAY

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we now have our new Founder's Tree. It was lovely to have a dedicated memorial to remember not only our own lost loved pets here at the Sanctuary, but also to take part in Remembrance Day with our current residents.

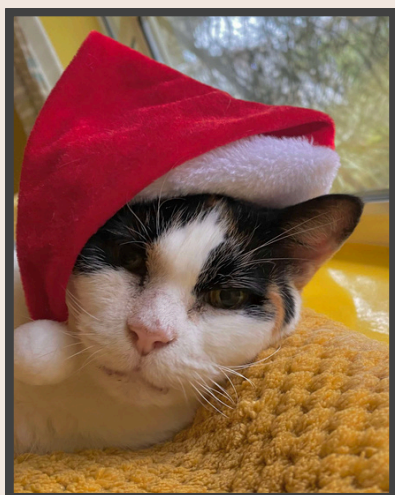
In Hillside tradition, one of the Sanctuary dogs gets the honour of helping to sniff out the best Christmas trees for our festive decorations. This year it was Monty's turn, and he did an amazing job, wrapped up warm in his winter jumper.

Christmas is always a lovely time to come together and celebrate all of our achievements, and remember all of our dearly departed of the year. Silly games, warm laughter and good food (with extra made for sneaking a sprout or a slice of turkey under the table to a furry friend). Santa never forgets to stop by Hillside, and all the residents are made to feel special and loved, because they are! The cats love their new climbing trees, and the dogs have been busy "working in" their new toys. From sprout sticks for the pigeons, new jackets for the horses, to strings of festive spaghetti for the chickens, no one goes without!



Some of our dear residents have gone over the Rainbow Bridge; each is deeply missed, we think of them fondly and will remember them always. **Ben**, 15y Cocker Spaniel, our floppy, snuggly boy was an absolute treasure. **Woolly Jumper**, 16y Jacob Sheep, a bold and brassy ewe who charmed her way into our hearts. **Twiddles**, 13y cat, a strong character who sweet talked you with bright eyes and soft, gentle paws. **Tanya**, 13y Labrador, was a fun and curious girl, a friend to many. **Matty**, 18y Jack Russell, a gorgeous gentle soul was an integral part of Hillside having been a resident for 12 years; his passing was the end of an era. **Max**, 14y cat, a striking, chatty chap loved any and all the attention he could get. **Jack**, 16y Westie, was a lovely boy and a big character, proving the biggest gifts come in small packages. **Priscilla**, 18y cat, a regal star much like her namesake, who loved being outdoors in her favourite garden. **Sandi**, 10y cat, an affectionate kind gent who loved curling up under a blanket. **Pickles** was loved by all who met her, a charming little madam and the last of our Quail family. **Jessie**, 18y cat, a loving girl, her favourite pastime was chattering to the birds who flew past her window. **Jack**, 14y Westie, had more character than most, he was a cheeky monkey capable of chaos and devotion in equal measure. **Lulu**, 14y English Pointer, was a loveable goofball with an unforgettable personality, a true princess.

We say goodbye to 2024, thankful for everything we have, and look forward to seeing what 2025 brings!



Poetry Corner

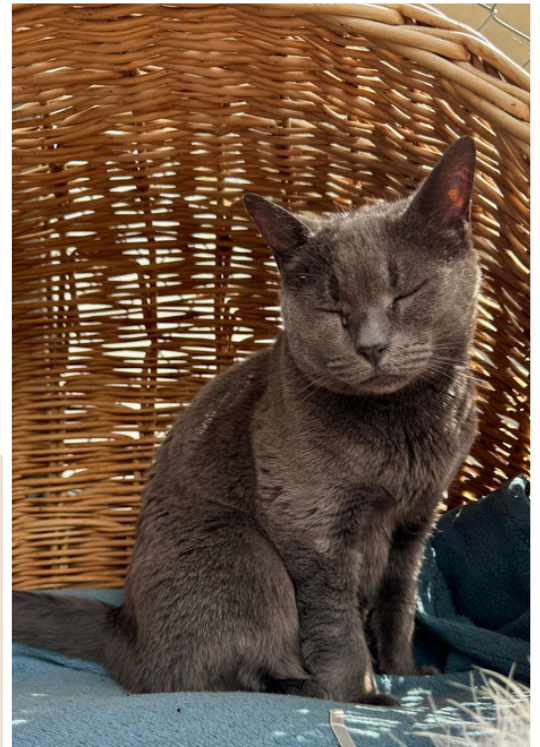
This poem was written by our first volunteer Nancy Brant; she was a dear friend of Averil and a stalwart supporter of The Cinnamon Trust. This poem was featured in our very first Newsletter back in 1986 and the message is still as evocative today.

Tim

*She sat by the fire and watched the flames die
As she stroked her cat fondly, she let forth a sigh
"I am old" she thought and of life she had known,
Her old cat stared back, content in his home.
It was all he remembered, her love and her care
She remembered the same as she smoothed his hair.
"When I die" she thought "what will happen to Tim,
will anyone come and take care of him?"
Or will he be frightened and taken away
By strangers, rough handled, would that be his pay
For all of the years of life they had shared
And the love they had given, so much they had cared.*

*They found her sitting in the chair
With Tim so sad still sitting there
"Take it away – must put it down
Send for the vet, phone into town!"
"But wait, what's that held in her hand?
A card! Let's see, her last demand"
"Well phone them up and get them here
This cat seems hungry in its fear."*

*She came and lifted Timmy down
She talked to him of his new home
Until a purr rewarded her
She walked away with dear old Tim
Into a home prepared for him
With all the things he'd known for years
Where he could live and no more fears
This time it was all sorted out
It's what the Cinnamon Trust's about
We need your help friends, if you care,
It could be YOU found sitting there.*





The Cinnamon Trust

The national charity for older people,
the terminally ill and their pets



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