

JUST PRESS THE BIG RED BUTTON!

Statistics show that 7 out of 10 households in the UK have access to the Internet, and Lifeline has had its own website for several years. Recently, however, we have taken a major step forward by adding a 'Donate On-Line' facility to the site.

This means supporters not just locally but even nationwide can make a donation at the touch of a button, via Paypal or credit card, through a secure system.

It is important that we do not get left behind in the technology stakes, for most charities now have an on-line donations facility alongside the normal method of donating by cheque, which of course we will still be operating.

Our revised site (*kindly created by Lifeline supporter Paul Outen*) has a bold red **Donate Now** button on the homepage, and a special Winter Appeal page detailing our current needs, and also shows photos of some of the dogs supporters have helped save in recent months. You can check it out at www.animallifeline.org.uk

However or whenever you choose to donate to Lifeline, we are very appreciative.

Below, you can see some of our current residents lined up to show their gratitude too. They are healthy and happy while awaiting new homes, and it is thanks to **YOUR** support that they and more than 300 others have been rescued during the past year.

You are all very special people.

Nick Fletcher, Chairman Of Trustees



Jessica, Lynn, Tina and Dee at the Serendipity Kennels, trying to get 6 lively dogs to face the camera!

GOOD YEAR, BAD YEAR

The year flies by and during the past 12 months, Lifeline has rescued and re-homed well over 300 dogs and puppies, some just abandoned, some badly neglected, some with awful injuries. All are now safe and well and loved. Details of some of the happy-ending cases are reported overleaf.

That is the good news. The bad news is that for every kennel space that becomes available, there are several needy dogs waiting to be taken in.

While this can cause us much heartache and much frantic planning to ensure we save these little lives, we do not become discouraged. We often remind ourselves of the story of a man on a beach seeing hundreds of starfish stranded by the outgoing tide. He ran along putting as many as he could back into the sea. Someone watching him called out 'Why bother? There are so many, it can't make any difference.'

The man paused for a moment and replied 'It makes a big difference to the ones which are saved.'

We - like you - love dogs and however many needy cases we encounter, we will do our utmost to save every one. That is what we are here for - to provide a lifeline.



Happy Christmas and Thanks

Everyone at Lifeline wishes our supporters, volunteers and members a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Without your support, we couldn't achieve so much. We never fail to be touched by the ways you help us - a sponsored parachute jump, marathon running, even refusing wedding anniversary presents and donating the money to Lifeline.

Your contributions, be they 50p in our charity box, a cheque from an event, a bequest, or just time given to help us at the kennels, at our charity shops, street collections and in other ways truly make a difference. Thank you all.

WE NEED YOU

While Animal Lifeline is very well-known, it is actually a surprisingly small group and that means we sometimes struggle to maintain all our activities.

We mainly need volunteers to join the rotas at our shops in Longton and Newcastle at the counter or in the backroom and also for our regular town-centre collections in Hanley and Newcastle. **PLEASE** consider giving just a morning or an afternoon of your time. It would such a big help and ease the burden on those who turn out for us, rain or shine. Just call Marie on 01782 614415 for details.

After all, just how tough can it be to make new friends and be among fellow animal lovers? We are a happy, friendly team so please give it some thought.

DOG TALES WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

Cassie was a Lurcher who came to Lifeline with a terrible leg injury. Used for rabbiting, she had sustained a wound which had not received any veterinary attention and was badly infected. It was so bad, we feared the leg would have to be amputated.

However, we took her to a specialist vet in Lancashire, and he was able to save the leg, and in the weeks that followed, Cassie recovered well. Happily, she was re-homed very quickly and now receives a lot of love from her new owners, and is very contented.

Star (pictured below right) was another dog which came to us in a dreadful state. She had been left tied up and starving, and was down to less than half her body-weight, and was covered in sores. Careful nursing and a good diet enabled her to recover and when she was fit and well, we found her a wonderful home with people who knew of her ordeal and were determined she would never suffer again.

Jack (pictured below left) is a happy little soul who came to Lifeline with just one eye, the other lost through cruelty or accident - we just don't know the circumstances. However, he is now a happy confident little chap, quite a well-known character up at our sanctuary. We are still waiting to find him a suitable new home, but in the meantime, he enjoys life with his pals.



HOMES NEEDED

We currently have about 120 dogs at our kennels, all deserving loving new homes, some often overlooked. Tiger and Maggie are just two examples:

Tiger is a lovely-natured German Shepherd-cross, about 8 years old. She would be a good pet for a family with older children, or a great companion on a one-to-one basis.

Maggie is a friendly Lurcher, about 4 years old. She has a nice temperament and would suit anyone who has experience of this noble breed.

If you (or anyone you know!) could give them a good home, please call us on 01782 311893.



FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS



The love and comfort we can get from dogs is something we have all experienced, and often we wish we could express it eloquently to others. Some writers have tried to capture this special bond between dogs and humans, and here are a few profound and some amusing - examples from a book of quotations:

'I have found that when you are deeply troubled there are things you get from the silent and devoted companionship of a dog that you can get from no other source'.

'No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as a dog does.'

'If there is a heaven, it is certain our animals are there. Their lives become so interwoven with ours, it would take more than an archangel to disentangle them.'

'A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself.'

'A loving friendship formed over thousands of years flourishes between dogs and human beings. Dogs have left the hunting pack of their ancestors and become members of our human world.'

'Most dogs don't think they are human. They *know* they are.'

NEW HOMES

Bruno, a Dobie-cross, and Josh, a smooth Collie, were nice friendly dogs but despite our best efforts, were constantly overlooked in our kennels. However, we never give up and we were delighted recently when at long last, we found new homes for both these long-termers, where they can get individual love and attention.

POST CARD FROM SPAIN

We love to hear of former Lifeline dogs enjoying a new life after we have rescued them, and we recently heard about Biskit and Stitch, two dogs from our Madeley kennels who now enjoy the beach life in sunny Spain.

They were given new homes by Joan Masters and David Frost of Halmer End, who sometime later moved to Spain. Now Biskit and Stitch have a lovely time in the garden or on the beach. In a note from Spain, Joan says 'They have taken it all in their stride and they are really happy here. We have found a good vet who speaks excellent English, and she has told us how hard it is to re-home dogs here. All this makes us very thankful for the existence of Animal Lifeline and the brilliant work you do.'

We appreciate the comments knowing our dogs are happy is greatly rewarding and boosts us all during the more difficult aspects of dog rescue.

