

HOME SWEET HOME



Henry



Bonnie



Dylan



Josie



Sandy



Beau



Zena



Tiger

MANY OLDER DOGS HOMED

HOME SWEET HOME

Since our last Newsletter a few months ago, well over 100 dogs have been re-homed from our Serendipity Kennels including many of the older dogs, which is great news.

Among them was Beethoven, aged about 12, whose owner had died. He had been in kennels for 2 or 3 months and needed medication for kidney problems but was given a home by Gill, a Lifeline supporter who had previously had two dogs from us, Jade and Gemma. Beethoven gets on well with his new friends and has settled in nicely.

Sandy and Andy were two elderly Labradors handed over to us by the same owner. We couldn't re-home them together but they have gone to separate homes and are very happy with their new families.

Missy was a young Mastiff found roaming. After months in kennels, she has now been re-homed, as has Beau, an American bull mastiff dubbed 'the gentle giant' by kennel staff. Aged about 2, he had been in kennels for 18 months but is now with a family who have another Lifeline dog.

Dylan the lurcher was rescued from a puppy farm in Wales and handed over to Lifeline. About 2 years old, he had been with us for several months but has now been found a new home.

Carrie, a crossbreed, was a 'latchkey' dog found wandering in poor condition, and has been re-homed in Clayton. Henry, a collie-cross aged about 3 years has been re-homed in Crewe, and Tiger, a German Shepherd has been re-homed with another Lifeline supporter.

Buster, a very nervous 2 year old had been in kennels 18months but after being socialised by staff and volunteers, has found a new home too. Twinkle, a pug-cross, has been with us several months but has been re-homed in Leek, and Frankie, a collie-cross, in Newcastle. Bonnie, a 2-year Staffie has been re-homed in Norton after being in kennels over a year. Mollie, a Jack Russell-cross has also been re-homed, and Zena, a 3 year old is now with a new family in Weston Coyney. Josie was one of a litter of four unwanted puppies which were very neglected. Two were homed together at Milwich and one in Stone.

Josie herself went to someone who already had a lifeline dog and her new owners tells us: "Josie is growing well and is becoming a happy and confident little dog."

These are just a small sample of recent homings but they help give a flavour of what we are doing and show that even though some dogs have to be kept for several months, they can be found new and loving homes and get a second chance in life.

Your support helps us achieve this. Thank you all.

MORE HOMES NEEDED

However many dogs we home, there are always more deserving cases. We still have many lovely dogs in our care so if you are considering having a dog, please get in touch.

And if you hear of a friend, work colleague or member of your family who is thinking of having a dog, please pass on our contact numbers 01782 311893 and 638341 so that we can try to help them.



Buster



Missy



Mollie



Carrie



Twinkle

ANIMAL LIFELINE NEWS

Summer 2009

www.animallifeline.org.uk

Issue No 11

Animal Lifeline, PO Box 411, Longton ST3 4SS Tel: 01782 311893 Reg Charity No: 1041362

COPING WITH THE CRUNCH

The question Lifeline gets asked most often these days is 'How is the credit crunch affecting you?'

Like many charities, the recession IS affecting us, and in two ways. Firstly, donations have fallen slightly, as one might expect. Many people are struggling to make ends meet and while they may want to give to worthy causes, they just cannot afford it.

The second reason is that the recession has increased demands on our already stretched services. More and more people are cutting costs by getting rid of their pets and we are inundated with calls asking us to take in dogs because the owners have been made redundant, are splitting up and moving into rented accommodation which prohibits pets, or just can't afford pet food or in particular, veterinary costs. The only silver lining is that Lifeline is managing to consistently re-home dogs, creating spaces for new ones, many of which would be put down if we did not take them in.

These death-row dogs are often lovely, well behaved, loyal and loving family pets whose only crime is to be with someone who cannot afford to keep them. At least they are safe with us.

We are taking in as many as possible and, as you'll see from our homing story in this issue, placing many of them with new and caring owners.

Our volunteer homing team works several nights a week doing home-checks and advising potential owners.

Our own kennelling, food and vet's fees are substantial, and at a time when our income is falling. However, we know that our regular supporters already do all they can to help us and we cannot ask them for more. What we have tried to do is be more pro-active ourselves, staging more fund raising events such as charity auctions, and open days at our Serendipity Kennels. These help us try to bridge a widening gap.

If you understandably cannot afford to make a donation, you can still help by supporting Lifeline events, or by donating good quality unwanted items to our charity shops in Longton and Newcastle.

Our two shops are a vital part of our fund-raising effort but they need a constant supply of good quality items to keep going.

According to a recent TV programme, 86 per cent of people have unused and unwanted items in their homes, clothing you have never worn, unwanted gifts you will never use.

Please consider having a 'de-clutter' and donating the items to us. Try to do it once every month or so if you can. Every little helps, to borrow a phrase from a well known supermarket!

You can drop the items off at our shop at 1 Church St, Newcastle, or at 22 Bennett Precinct, Longton.

And please pass the word around family, friends and even try to persuade colleagues at work to de-clutter too. If you can get a lot of items together, we can collect them from your place of work.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN
IT REALLY IS VITAL THAT OUR SHOPS ARE KEPT WELL-STOCKED.



MP PRAISES LIFELINE ROLE

Stoke on Trent South MP Rob Fello visited Animal Lifeline's Serendipity Kennels near Cellerhead in June and paid tribute to staff and volunteers for doing what he described as 'a remarkable job'.

After inspecting the kennels and facilities, Mr Fello said "This is an important community service and everyone involved deserves the credit for working so long and hard to help abandoned dogs and to improve standards of animal welfare in the region."

Mr Fello said he would raise some of the dog welfare issues discussed at local and Government level. He is pictured at Serendipity Kennels with managers Karen and Steve Woodward and with Lifeline's Trustee Mrs Pat Lawton (right).



HOMING SUCCESS

Homing dogs is at the heart of Lifeline's work and we work very hard to home as many as possible so that we can save others.

Beethoven and Frankie (both pictured) are just two typical cases, at opposite ends of the age spectrum. Beethoven was about 12, Frankie just one year old, and both happily re-homed.

A more detailed story about recent re-homings appears on the rear of this Newsletter. It helps show the tremendous range of dogs and puppies we take in, usually through no fault of their own. Some have been neglected, others may have come to us when their owner died. Whatever the situation, we do our best to provide love and care while we try to find new owners for them. Sometimes this happens quickly, with others it takes time. But perseverance pays, as you will see from our Home Sweet Home feature.



DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

SHOPPING ON LINE

Some of you may occasionally shop on-line, buying from retailers such as Argos, Amazon, HMV, Next, John Lewis, George At Asda and many other household names. But did you know that each time you buy something, you can ensure Lifeline gets a donation without it costing you a single penny extra? Instead of going direct to the retailer's site, you just need to access it via www.easyfundraising.org.uk This charity site has links to more than 600 retailers and each time you buy from one of them via the easyfundraising site, Animal Lifeline gets a donation from the retailer. The item you buy costs exactly the same as it would direct from the retailer but they pay us a small fee for your custom.

Animal Lifeline is also an approved charity registered with Ebay. Anytime you sell anything on Ebay, you can opt to donate a percentage of the total to Lifeline just click the charity donation button and enter Animal Lifeline, the system will do the rest.

You can also donate to Lifeline via www.charitychoice.co.uk, which has links with the very ethical Co-operative Bank and many national retailers.



HOLIDAY PRIZE

CARAVAN HOLIDAY

A total of £256 was raised for Lifeline when a caravan holiday in North Wales was offered as a raffle prize by Mrs Patsy Taylor, who lives near Leek.

Patsy kindly gave Lifeline a main-season week in her holiday caravan overlooking the sea at Borth. The winning ticket, drawn by a member of the public at our Longton charity shop, belonged to J.Parton.

Thanks to everyone who bought a ticket, and special thanks to Patsy for donating such a generous prize.

TALKING DOGS!

THE AMAZING LIFE OF DOGS is the title of an entertaining talk by Lifeline member, writer and broadcaster Nick Fletcher. In it, he details why dogs and humans have created such a unique bond, and relates many real-life stories of dogs doing the most amazing things, including saving lives, showing incredible loyalty and devotion, and even making unaided parachute jumps!

Nick will give this talk free to any group (a donation to Lifeline is of course appreciated!) Call 01782 311893 to book him, and please pass on the contact details to any group you know of who use guest speakers.

CHILDREN GET SPECIAL AWARD

Children from Walton Hall Special School near Eccleshall have sponsored several dogs at the Lifeline kennels and recently visited Serendipity to hand over money which they had raised. They were shown around the kennels and met many of the dogs, and are pictured being presented with a special certificate by joint manager Karen Woodward.

TED WANDZELL

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Ted Wandzell, a long-time supporter of Lifeline, who died earlier this year. He and wife Jeanne, from Trentham, were staunch supporters of Lifeline over many years and had helped raise funds for the charity. Warm tributes were paid to Ted, and £500 was donated to Lifeline from his funeral.



DIARY DATE LIFELINE OPEN DAY AND GARDEN PARTY SEPTEMBER 27

The big date for your diary is Sunday September 27th, when Lifeline stages its Garden Party and Open Day, from 2pm-4pm. The venue is of course the Serendipity Kennels near Cellerhead and there will be lots of stalls (all under-cover in case it rains!) plus competitions, refreshments and a chance for visitors to see the many improvements we have carried out in recent months thanks to the hard work of staff and a team of volunteers. Please make an effort to come along. It's a fun day out and it really helps boost everyone's spirits to see a good crowd in attendance!

ROLL OF HONOUR

Those who leave Animal Lifeline a bequest are given a permanent memorial plaque on our Benefactors Board located at Serendipity Kennels.

Their generosity helps ensure the long-term future of Lifeline and means that abandoned dogs and puppies will be rescued and re-homed for many years to come. This is a fitting tribute to anyone who has enjoyed the company of dogs during their lifetime.

Indeed, were it not for the forethought and generosity of the late Douglas Hodges, Lifeline would not have its Serendipity Kennels near Cellerhead. Thanks to a legacy from Douglas, a charitable trust was set up and was able to acquire the site for a much-needed dog rescue centre. We shall always be grateful to Douglas for giving Lifeline such a firm foundation, and we are also grateful to those who have left us legacies to continue our mission to save dogs and place them with loving owners.

Our blue plaque board is a tribute to these people and kennels joint manager Steve Woodward is pictured adding another name to this roll of honour.

If you have not done so already, please consider including a legacy to Animal Lifeline in your Will it will help the dogs you love long after you have gone. To leave Lifeline a legacy, you do not need to make a new Will, you can simply add an additional clause to your existing one.



CALL FOR ACTION

Illicit backyard puppy breeding is on the increase in North Staffordshire with many people raising cash by churning out puppies such as Staffies.

Often the mother and pups are kept in appalling conditions and Lifeline is sometimes involved in rescuing such dogs. Frequently they are found in council and housing association properties and are being bred as a source of income, just sold on to anyone who will pay.

Many Staffies are purchased by young men who want them as a fashion accessory, to be part of their macho street-image. Of course, this is often a passing fad and when the dogs are no longer wanted, they are dumped.

The number of abandoned Staffies has risen greatly over the past 5 years and Lifeline and other dog rescues up and down the country are being inundated with requests to take these dogs, which are difficult to re-home as adults.

To draw attention to this growing problem, Lifeline's Trustee Pat Lawton has written directly to Stoke City Council and the Aspire Housing Association in Newcastle asking them to consider banning or at least placing restrictions on commercial puppy-breeding in local authority or housing association tenanted properties.

Pat also highlighted the problem with a lengthy interview on BBC Radio Stoke and has discussed the matter with local MP Rob Ffello.



Happy Days for Susie

SUSIE HOMED!

In our last newsletter, you may recall the story of little three-legged Susie, who lost a leg after being thrown from a car on the M6 motorway.

Many people have been in touch to ask what has happened to her since our initial report. The great news is that soon after our story, Susie (pictured) was re-homed with a lovely owner at Trent Vale who is taking excellent care of her.

Susie adapted quickly to life on three legs (most dogs do!) and hasn't let it affect her zest for life. She loves to run around at top speed and likes lots of fuss and attention which she gets.

Susie is just one of more than 100 dogs successfully re-homed by Lifeline in the past few months, and details of some of the recent homings are on the back page of this newsletter.

AGM REPORT

Animal Lifeline held its Annual General Meeting on March 11th at the function room at the White Star in Stoke on Trent. Members heard that in the past 12 months, the rescue had re-homed almost 250 dogs and puppies, and had carried out many improvements at its Serendipity Kennels, including additional kennel spaces, a new kennel heating system, and additional storage facilities.

At the meeting, the existing Trustees Pat Lawton, Cassie Fletcher, Marie Martin and Janet Slater were re-appointed by unanimous vote.

Janet Slater was reappointed secretary and Fiona Bailey acting treasurer. Nick Fletcher was reappointed administrator.