

BULLETIN 58 – January 2007

Dear Members and Friends

And a very happy New Year to all two and four legged friends! As I write we have just celebrated Hogmanay and so far this year we have enjoyed (?!) non-stop wind and rain – in fact Machrihanish was mentioned on the BBC main news as having the highest wind speed, such is fame.

After the traumas we experienced in 2006 the year ended for us on a high note with the arrival of ZAK at the end of November. I hope he doesn't think that the weather is always as bad as it has been since he came to us! He is now just sixteen weeks old and full of mischief! And, of course, he is a Boxer and came from Fiona Hamilton, in Balmaha, who bred our lovely Holly so many years ago. It is wonderful to have a dog in the house again, it had been so empty since dear Josh died as result of our car accident last July. He was a darling and will never be forgotten. Our special thanks to Margaret Sandilands for the short time we had with him.

I am still unable to get about without a stick – poor old soul!! But thanks to Nick we get by, he works so hard in every way; Canine Concern owes him a very large vote of thanks for all he does – he is learning to cook as well!!! One way and another you will appreciate why 2006 was not one of our best years but we look forward to doing better in 2007.

And before going any further, so you can put it in your diary straight away, this year's **COMPANION DOG SHOW** will again be held on the first Sunday in June, the 3rd of June, in Queens Park, Glasgow. As usual we need as many helpers as possible on the day. If you are able to lend a hand please get in touch with either John Stead, Show Manager, on 01436 675381, or Nick at the office. Full details will be sent to you via the April Bulletin. There will of course be a Therapet Parade, Road Safety Obedience and other attractions. I shall hope to be there and look forward to seeing you all.

EDUCATION

This year has started with the very sad news about the little girl who was killed by a Pit Bull type dog owned by a member of her family. It brings back all the memories from a number of years ago when a young girl was killed by improperly supervised dogs and which started such strong anti-dog feeling. The problems caused made organisations such as PRO-Dogs (of which many of us were originally a part) come into being to defend the good name of the dog and promote responsible dog ownership. There is no doubt that education in dog ownership is the answer and we would strongly recommend our film **CHILDREN & DOGS** to any school or organisation connected with children. It is introduced by our very dear, late, Patron Jimmy Logan, along with his dog Stanley, with a commentary by another dearly loved (now also gone) Patron Robin Hall. The film lasts about 15 minutes and has been much praised.

It is amazing how many far-flung requests we have received for the film, it seems to hit the spot and will never “date”. It makes a good introduction to a school visit or helps with the many talks we make to all types of organisation. The film is available at £7.50 plus £1.00 for post and packing.

SAD DEPARTURES

As always I have to record the loss of many of our beloved Therapets and pets. Nothing I write will bring them back but we all know and love them in our hearts and memories. So goodbye for now to:-

Anne Clare’s Sheltie “**LADDIE**”
Rita Crombie’s Miniature Poodle “**NICKIE**”
Rosemary Stroyan’s Jack Russell “**WEE PIRATE**”
Agnes Adams’ Cross Breed “**BONNY**”
Jean Llamó’s Japanese Chin “**JAH_BAH**”
Marion Drysdale’s Greyhound “**MAGEE**”
Jacqueline Evans’ Cocker Spaniel “**OLIVER**”
Keith & Greer Abendroth’s Rough Collie “**FEERGUS**”
Iain & Ruth Jamieson’s GSD “**CATHY**”
Mairie Black’s Labrador Cross “**TANYA**”
Dorothy Sharkey’s Collie Cross “**LADY**”

and to all who have left us. We know we shall all meet at the Rainbow Bridge, and you will never be forgotten. Sleep warm.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

This was a really super day on 19th November at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate, we had a record attendance with lots of dogs and our delightful Patron, Lesley Fitz-Simons to make the presentations.

THE SPENCER AWARD for THERAPET OF THE YEAR was donated by Tom and Dorothy Wilkins in memory of the very first Therapet, their lovely and much missed Cavalier K.C. Spaniel. Tom and Dorothy moved to South Africa a few years ago from where they sent their best wishes. This year the Trustees voted to make the award to “**FROST**” a White German Shepherd all the way from the ORKNEY ISLES. FROST is owned by **TRUDY MARWICK**.

Trudy was first introduced to us by the Volunteer Centre Orkney and registered her Golden Retriever **MORSE** and has since visited SCARVA TAING CARE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY every Tuesday. Frost made her first visit to the home at a very early age. She used to sit in a cardboard box in the foot well of Trudy’s disability scooter and she would go along with Morse on his weekly visits. Frost would be left outside but the residents demanded to see her so Trudy carried her in so she got to know everyone.

As Frost grew she was taken to training classes and learned excellent manners and when she was old enough was assessed and registered as a Therapet. In addition Frost is training as an ASSISTANCE DOG – she helps Trudy with mobility, opens heavy doors and gives Trudy confidence to go out on her own.

Trudy says:-

“I think she is a dog in a million because she always brings smiles whenever we go visiting. She is gentle with the elderly folk, they love to give her a biscuit and shake her paw and they love to pet her. She cheers up the folk who feel unwell or grumpy because they are in pain. One of the elderly residents might feel down when we arrive and Frost soon brings a smile as she offers her paw and puts her head on their knee. I love to hear the stories of their own pets as Frost reminds them of things, which are good memories.

We have been to Scarva Taing without fail missing only a couple of weeks, despite snow, car breakdown and even disability breakdown. Frost has towed me on a sledge when there was too much snow to drive the scooter along! My mobility scooter was quite old and a few times the battery let me down. I would be a fair distance from home, too far for me to walk, but each time Frost towed me along until we got home. She has a Husky harness.

We love visiting the children at Aurrida House, which is a respite home for children with disabilities. On her first visit, Frost was able to play games with those who wanted to race her and yet, she lay down and listened to the secrets one little boy had to tell. He was quiet and didn't join in many of the races or hide and seek, but he was on his own and lying in the grass. Frost went to him and lay next to him and he put his arm on her and told her all the secrets of his day. It was a very moving moment.

There is no one reason why Frost is a dog in a million but there are many reasons why. She brings smiles and laughter; she is gentle yet cheeky and funny; she is my constant support; and she is a faithful friend to many people.”

The joint runners up were:

JAKE, a Golden Retriever, owned by Lesley Good of Aberdeen. Jake visits the Royal Cornhill Hospital in Aberdeen.

SIMBA, a Lhasa Apso, owned by Norma Murray, who is our very hard working Representative for Tayside. Simba visits Lunan Court in Arbroath.

ZOEY an Elkhound, owned by David Stuart-Calder, was also runner-up in 2003. Zoey's nomination was sent on behalf of no less than five homes in Aberdeen that she visits regularly.

THE DR MORRIS ANDREW & DANIEL THE SPANIEL MEMORIAL AWARD – a beautiful silver quaiiche donated by Morris's family - is made annually to the Therapet Organiser of the Year. Morris was a Trustee and was also Area Representative for Edinburgh for a number of years. This year the award was made to **MAUREEN HILL**, our very dedicated Area Representative for Dumfries.

Maureen joined us in 2001 and quickly became a very dedicated Therapet visitor with her beloved German Shepherd, Taggart, who sadly died in 2004, and her Flat Coated Retriever, Monty, who is still on active service.

Before she knew where she was she was drawn into becoming the Trust's Representative for Dumfries-shire and what a success she has been! Maureen was much involved with a group called DOGS-R-US and the members of this group formed the nucleus of Therapets in the Dumfries area. It was clear from the outset that Maureen is a good organiser. She marshals her Therapet volunteers brilliantly and ensures that the many homes that want Therapets are visited regularly as her detailed schedules clearly demonstrate.

Added to her Therapet visiting and organising Maureen is always up to many other things. She organises and mans stands at a tremendous number of events each year and you should see what she and her team produce to sell for the benefit of the Trust. Frequently Nick receives emails reporting on the most recent event and the money raised as a result. The publicity that Maureen achieves by attending these events is most valuable.

Additionally Maureen is a magnificent organiser of the Stepping Out For Scotland Sponsored Walks. She has the knack of encouraging members to turn out and they always raise more money than she expects! Over the last four years her walks have averaged £750 per walk.

Two awards were made in respect of "**STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND**", a series of sponsored walks so vital for our fund raising each year. This year the award for the organiser whose walk raised the most money was won by **JAMES MACDONALD** who arranged the walk in Glasgow. His walk raised the magnificent total of £2,038.50. The award for the individual who obtained the most sponsorship went to **VALERIE BURNS** who participated in the Glasgow walk. Valerie raised a total of 315.00.

The final award of the day was **THE IAIN WHYTE MEMORIAL AWARD**. This award is made to a person or organisation whose work has been of special benefit to the Trust over the past year or over a period of years. Certainly "period of years" was applicable this year as the award went to the Kirkintilloch and District Dog Training Club. We were delighted to be able to pay tribute to the members of the Club who willingly give of their precious time each year to contribute greatly to the success of our ANNUAL COMPANION DOG SHOW which is held in Queens Park, Glasgow each year. They organise the tremendously important Road Safety Obedience competition, they give obedience displays, they give agility displays and arrange for members of the public to experience the agility course (with their dogs of course!!) and they give exciting Flyball displays. All these events bring the public to the show, with the consequent financial benefits and, importantly, the opportunity to publicise to a wider audience the work of the Trust.

Some years ago the club organised a RACE NIGHT, which was great fun, and which raised £850 for the Trust. Members of the Club regularly visit schools in their area to teach responsible dog ownership and whilst the visits are under the auspices of the club I know that the work of Canine Concern Scotland Trust features in their presentation.

The club does a lot of wonderful work for dogs and of course the training programmes run by the club are so important for dog owners in the Kirkintilloch District.

STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND

Once again a series of sponsored walks were held in 2006. Again very many thanks to all who organised them, all who took part and all who provided sponsorship. Here are the details:-

Venue	Organiser	Total
Forfar	Norma Murray	£ 421.00
Glasgow	James Macdonald	£2,038.50
Strathclyde Park	Deborah Clark	£ 174.00
Donations		£ 207.00
	Overall Total	£2,840.50

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2007 are now due and I enclose the normal renewal form. We do hope that you will continue your membership and of course it is very important, from the insurance point of view, that Therapet Volunteers keep their membership up to date. Again this year the form contains a **Gift Aid Declaration**. If you are a tax payer please do sign this declaration as the Trust can then recover from the Inland Revenue 28p for each £ paid by way of membership and donation. Last year we were able to reclaim tax of £773.38.

The membership subscription rates have not changed since the Trust was formed in 1988. It has been, and remains, the Trustees' policy to retain very modest fees and there are no plans to make any increases. We do appreciate very much the generosity of very many members who feel able to send donations with their membership fees.

SCHEME FOR THE DONATION OF REPAYMENTS OF TAX FROM SELF-ASSESSMENT TAX RETURNS

From the tax year beginning 6th April 2004 individual taxpayers have been able to nominate any charity registered with the scheme to receive all or part of any tax repayments due to them. The Self-Assessment Tax Return includes a section to be completed and it asks for the name of the charity and also the charity's unique code. It also includes a Gift Aid declaration. The advantages of the scheme as far as charities are concerned are:-

- The donation will be paid direct to the charity's bank account.
- Gift Aid Tax will be paid to the charity without the charity having to make a claim.
- For the first time charities will benefit from Gift Aid on anonymous donations.

Canine Concern Scotland Trust is registered with the Scheme and the Trust's unique number is **XAK39FG**. This is listed on the Inland Revenue's website along with all other charities that have registered with the Scheme. If you wish the Trust to benefit in this way you will need to fill in the name of the Trust on your Tax Return, quote the unique number and sign the Gift Aid declaration.

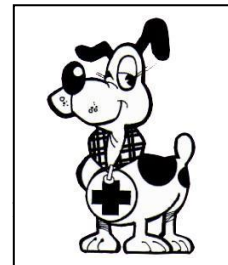
CHARITABLE DONATIONS BY COMPANIES

Many employers, and their employees, operate schemes for charitable donations. Some companies have a matched giving scheme whereby the company will donate to the nominated charity an amount equal to the amount raised by the employee/pensioner. If you are an employee and your employer has such a scheme please put forward Canine Concern Scotland Trust as a potential recipient. Nick will be very pleased to provide whatever information may be required to assist in the assessment process.

THERAPET NEWS

Retirement of Eilidh

Anne Macdonald writes: "I feel that Eilidh has done a marvellous job Over the last ten years and I will shortly be retiring her from the Hospitals, although I will continue to use her for phobia visits. She has not become a "grumpy old woman" but a slightly "stubborn" one and is not as focused on people but more whom is going to give her a biscuit and what she might find under the beds!"



A well earned retirement, or semi-retirement, for Springer Spaniel Eilidh. She and Anne have done wonders over these ten years. Many of you will remember that Eilidh was Therapet of the Year in 2001 and we were delighted to present the Iain Whyte memorial award to Anne in 2005. Eilidh visited the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, and the Spinal Injuries Unit and the Physically Disabled Rehabilitation Unit at the Southern General Hospital. Fortunately for these institutions Eilidh's retirement does not mean an end to Therapet visits as Anne now has Poppy, another Springer Spaniel, who was registered as a Therapet towards the end of 2005. She spent last year being coached by Eilidh and is now a great success in her own right!

Eilidh has proved to be a great assistance to Psychologists in helping children overcome phobias about dogs and as Anne has said she will be continuing with this most valuable, and time consuming, work. Eilidh has been a great advert for the Therapet Scheme and has appeared in newspapers and in STV's documentary about the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

THE FATHER JIM PEAT MEMORIAL MEDAL is available to all Therapets which have been visiting for **five** or more years. If your Therapet qualifies, and you have not yet received a medal, please let Nick know. Also we are delighted to provide **CERTIFICATES** to Therapets who have completed **three** years of service. Again please let Nick know if your Therapet qualifies.

A **CHRISTMAS PARTY** was organised by our enterprising team of Therapet Representatives in Aberdeen. By all accounts it was a great success, it was very well supported by volunteers and their Therapets and the Team were delighted that so many children came along to join in the fun. Very many thanks to the Aberdeen team for all that they are doing and the success they are achieving.

Can I take this opportunity to say a “big thank” you to all our **REPRESENTATIVES** all over the country who do so much to organise and promote the Therapet Scheme – without them the Scheme would not be able to flourish in the way it does.

It is always great to hear from you regarding your participation in the Therapet Scheme. Here are some snippets:-

Vi Robertson from Ellon writes:- “Brodie (a Westie) and I continue to visit Fergus House on a regular basis and enjoy our time there. The residents have come to know me and Brodie and I make sure he is bathed the night before as some of the ladies don’t have good eyesight and have come to recognise him because he is “so white and fluffy”! It is amazing how our normal boisterous Brodie changes completely in nature to a gentle, loving Therapet when he enters the home.”

John and Cathy Waters visit **HMP Cornton Vale** with their Bullmastiffs and John writes:- “Just a little update on Kira and her son Hogan. They are both doing very well on their prison visits and are very highly thought of by both prison officers and prisoners. We think so far the visits have been very successful and beneficial. We have been told by the staff that prisoners eagerly await their arrival. Many are at their cell windows waving to the dogs on their arrival and departure. They have bonded well with many of the prisoners and get thoroughly spoiled by them. On many of the visits they go out into the yard and play fetch and a great time is had by all. We have had a very successful time with some of the prisoners who were afraid of dogs due to past experiences and they are now able to pat the dogs and even give them treats. Officers and prisoners have shown a great interest in the Bullmastiff breed and are amazed by their gentle but fun loving nature. The prisoners have told us they find petting the dogs has a calming effect on them and always ask when we will be back for another visit, they even share their weekly biscuit and crisp ration with them.(we will shortly have two very overweight dogs!). As you can see we are all enjoying our experience and I hope this gives you a little insight to the progress of this project.”

From **Christina Sturgeon**:- Kym continues being a wonderful Therapet ambassador every other Sunday when she accompanies me to Fort William salvation Army where I play for morning worship. She greets all on arrival, then sits on the front row during the service (on her lead!), of course she very much enjoys the tea and chat afterwards, the older people love sharing their biscuits and having her sitting on their feet!”

Tayside Area Representative **Norma Murray** organised a super article in the magazine of Tayside Carers Support Project. In it she described the Therapet Scheme and appealed for more volunteers. Articles in this sort of publication often bring forth new volunteers. If you know of a suitable publication please contact the editor to see if an article on Therapet would be welcomed. If you get a positive response please let Nick know and he will be able to supply whatever information is necessary.

Talking of publicity, in September last year Trustee, Area Representative for Glasgow and roving ambassador **James Macdonald** was invited to be a speaker at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s prestigious Volunteer Celebration Event at the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow. I understand that there were over 300 people there including very senior NHS officials. James’ speech made a great impact – I don’t know how he does it but he talks without notes. This was wonderful publicity for the Therapet Scheme.

THE THERAPET SCHEME

a) Veterinary Certificates

Some NHS areas have indicated their requirement for certificates of immunisation to be provided in respect of visiting Therapets. This was considered by the Trustees at their last meeting and it was agreed that it would be a good idea for the Trust to produce a standardised certificate for use in respect of all active Therapets. A certificate is issued automatically when a new Therapet is registered. Please contact Nick if you need more certificates.

b) Car Stickers

If you need a new Therapet car sticker for your car please let Nick know.

LITERATURE, POSTERS AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL – we have a good range of leaflets including Membership, My Therapet, Children & Dogs. Pets not Pests and Notes for Therapet Visitors. There are posters for the Therapet Scheme, explaining the Aims of the Trust and the Children and Dogs Film. There are also posters which are primarily aimed at Responsible Dog Ownership.

FILMS – we have two films, now available in video and DVD and both priced at £7.50 plus £1.00 for post and packing, if applicable. They are the acclaimed “**Children & Dogs**” educational film and a film on the “**Therapet Scheme**” which includes lovely Patron Lesley Fitz-Simons.

CSST and THERAPET GOODS – we have the following goods available for purchase:-

CCST Enamel Badges £ 2.00	Therapet Lead Flashes* now no charge
Therapet Coats* £10.00	Therapet T-Shirts £ 7.50
Therapet Sweat Shirts £13.50	CCST Sweat Shirts £13.50
Therapet Polo Shirts £11.00	* Available for Registered Therapets only

Our **TRUSTEES** have a wealth of experience and they are happy to be contacted by members. Their contact details are:-

Mr George Leslie 01560 600246 MACTALLA1@aol.com	Mr James Macdonald 0141 632 4893 James@bramlynn.freerve.co.uk	Mrs Rita Percival 0141 779 3092
Mr Allan Sim 0131 317 7377 allansim@blueyonder.co.uk	Mr John Stead 01436 675381 john.stead@tiscali.co.uk	Dr Val Marrian 01738 621018 ValMarrian1@aol.com

My contact details are as shown on the front page of this Bulletin!

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Henley Price

Dates for your diary

- a) Companion Dog Show on Sunday 3rd June 2007.**
- b) Presentation Lunch on Sunday 18th November 2007**

