

## **BULLETIN 53 – April 2005**

Dear Members and Friends

First of all it has been a delight and pleasure to us to receive your cards and good wishes after our car smash on Boxing Day – they really cheered us up. It would be great to tell you that we are back to “fighting strength” but whereas Nick and Matty are now more or less okay I’m afraid that my own recovery is taking longer than I thought – not helped by a fall in the house last week---!! Still lots of pain and unable to use my left arm – hence no typing and Nick will copy this on to the computer (if he can read my scribble!!).

**The ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS** are enclosed and the Trustees are pleased to report progress on all fronts. Thank you for your help and support. It could not be done without all our good friends up and down the country, especially our hard working Area Representatives.

**PRIZE DRAW** – and books of tickets are enclosed. Absolutely no obligation and if you are unable to sell them there is no need to return them. On the other hand we have lots more here if you can find homes for them! Some great prizes this year and grateful thanks to all donors. The Draw will be made, as usual, at our:

**COMPANION DOG SHOW** for which plans are well ahead thanks to Show Manager JOHN STEAD and the Committee. The show takes place on SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE in Queens Park, Glasgow (Victoria Gate) with Pedigree and Obedience entries taken from 10.30am for a 11.30am start. Pedigree Judge this year is good friend JOE MCDADE from the SSPCA, Glasgow, and I am sure that you will give him a good entry. There will be demonstrations of Agility and that most popular activity – FLYBALL – very kindly organised by Kirkintilloch and District Dog Training Club. You might also get the opportunity to “have a go” yourselves!

The **Lord Provost of Glasgow** has been invited to attend to present trophies at approx 2.30 pm, or, if she is unable to attend herself, a Bailie will be with us to represent her. Hopefully our two Patrons, **Lesley Fitz-Simons** and **Rosemary Long** will also be with us.

And, of course, our THERAPET PARADE will take place around 3.00 pm. A form is enclosed and we do hope that as many as possible of you will bring along your Therapets to get a well deserved round of applause, plus a certificate, rosette and doggy goodies very kindly donated by Burns. After the Parade there will be six Novelty classes for all dogs, pedigree or mixed breed.

We shall look forward to seeing you there on the day – I shall be there even if wheeled in! Meantime, offers of help with the show (especially muscle!) would be greatly appreciated. Also – gifts for the TOMBOLA, which contributes greatly to the financial side of the Show. All offers of help to Show Manager, JOHN STEAD, on 01436 675381, who will be delighted to hear from you! Donations to the Show, or towards rosettes, will also be very welcome indeed, this time to Nick at the office.

It will, as always, be a great day out with something for everyone to enjoy. Meantime I would, if I could, get down on my knees and pray for a lovely day and no rain! The spirit is willing but the legs are weak!!

**SCOTTISH KENNEL CLUB SHOWS** - We shall, thanks to James Macdonald, once again have stands at both the May and August SKC Shows and I know James would welcome offers of help even for a short time. Ring him on 0141 632 4893 if you can help. The dates are 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**SAD NEWS** – Whilst talking about James, you will I am sure be aware of the very many talks, stands, visits, you name it, made with his beloved O.E.S. “ECHO” over the years to help so many people. Sadly Echo had to be given peaceful sleep on 18<sup>th</sup> February and only a couple of weeks afterwards James’ Mother died quite suddenly. I know that you will want to send love and sympathies to James and Lynn at such a sad, sad time. They are now down to just one dog, “BONNIE”, who was rescued by James himself. He does such a lot of OES rescue and so many other wonderful things for Therapet and Pet Bereavement Counselling. He is, of course, one of our Trustees.

There seems to be so many dogs who are no longer with you in this bulletin and on behalf of all of us at the Trust we send sympathy and grateful thanks for all that they did for us and particularly for you. If you are anything like me you get some days of being able to cope. Then maybe just a small thing happens to bring it all back, even years later. Holly is as much with me now as she ever was, all that long time back and I am so pleased many of you like my book “**Sprigs of Holly**” which gave me such pleasure ( and not a few tears) to write. The book is available here at the office for £7 plus £1 p&p. Please make cheques out to me personally. All net profits go to the Trust.

Our loving thoughts to all of you who have lost your own special dog, or dogs:-

**Alan Hamilton** on losing Boxer Falco, who meant so much to him and Fiona too. For the first time since I have known her (35 years!) Fiona is down to four dogs. She bred Holly and Leo, and all her dogs, no matter how many, live in the house! Former Committee members **Christine Duncan**, who had so many Boxers, again over a long, long time, no longer has any dogs at all – how quiet it must be. **Betty Lawson-Whyte** too is now without dogs. Betty was a founder member of the Scottish Boxer Club in 1948.

Special thoughts and thanks go to **Susan Cross** of Glasgow who tells us that Collie “Bobby” was put to sleep at nearly 17 years, bless him. Susan writes “It was a real privilege to have been able to share such a large part of my life with him”. She sent me a lovely poem, which we did print in the Bulletin a few years ago, but I am

repeating just a few lines of it to help those of you, similarly recently bereaved, who may not have seen it:-

*Take me where my needs they'll tend,  
But stay with me until the end.  
And hold me firm and speak to me  
Until my eyes no longer see.*

*I know in time you too will see  
It is a kindness you do to me.  
Although my tail its last has waved,  
From pain and suffering I've been saved.*

*Do not grieve that it should be you  
Who must decide this thing to do.  
We've been so close – we two- these years,  
Don't let your heart hold any tears.*

ANON

**Pat Holland** lost Sheltie “Kerry” last September. So sorry Pat; glad to hear you are back working with Vets at St. Andrews.

**Sheena Stein** has had to retire her lovely Red Setter “Charlie” as he is going blind. We are so sorry Sheena but we know you will give him a lot of TLC and hopefully he will not even realise he can no longer see. We have heard this so often. Sheena's Yellow Lab “Lucy” has now become a Therapet to carry on Charlie's great work – good luck Lucy!

**Fiona Henderson's** Westie, “Toby”, has now been retired after five years of service. Toby has been very unwell for a while but thankfully seems to be on the mend. Best wishes to Fiona's daughter, Christine, who gets married on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Jean Coke** sadly lost her Collie Therapet “Queenie” a few days after her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, so much missed.

**Christine Watt**, our Fife Area Representative, was devastated to lose Rottie “Ami” on 28<sup>th</sup> January, a lovely girl who did us all proud and was a wonderful ambassador for her breed.

**Mrs M Seltzer's** Collie Cross “Jamie” also died recently. Jamie was first registered as a Therapet in 1989.

Very sad news from JOAN HILL of Forres - Sheila Duncan's Lucy had to be put to sleep on 27<sup>th</sup> November. She was buried alongside Joan's own “Phoebe”. Sheila herself went into hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> December and sadly died a week later. A real tragedy for Joan who walked Lucy every day for Sheila.

If I have not mentioned any dog who has died, please forgive me, life is a bit at sixes and sevens here but getting better all the time.

Our own very dear “Matty” (10 now) has a tumour at the base of her throat. Seemingly it is in a place where an operation would be dangerous. So, with the Vet’s agreement, we are just loving and spoiling her. She has no pain and runs around as happily, if slower, as ever. We hope our time with her will be as long as possible.

**Your Letters** are as ever very welcome and I am giving extracts from some – I wish there was space to reproduce everything in full. One letter, in particular, from MARGARET KINNEAR of Edinburgh was a delight to read. Here is an extract:-

“Our Therapet visiting at the Astley Ainsley Hospital is going extremely well and Tom has joined me on these visits since he retired at the beginning of December. On his first visit with me he was amazed at how all the patients just love to see Bonnie and how even very ill ones hold out their hands for her and can’t wait until it is their turn for her to go and see them. When very frail people are sound asleep the nursing staff have often said please don’t go from the ward until we have wakened Jim (or whoever it is) because he will be very upset if he knows Bonnie has been and he has missed her!

There are also a lot of Alzheimer patients who are often quite agitated and disturbed but when I take their hands and place them on Bonnie they always immediately become calm and even lucid at times. They just want to sit and cuddle her for quite a time.

Last week when we were about to leave one of the wards a nurse called after us to visit a very ill lady. After a great deal of moving bed rails etc we managed to get her hand on Bonnie and this produced a smile on the lady’s face although she was extremely ill.

Not only the patients but all the nursing staff, cleaners and all the helpers love to see Bonnie every Thursday and we both find it very rewarding.”

As always ANNE MACDONALD and her lovely Springer “Eilidh” continue to be wonderful ambassadors for Therapets having pioneered visits to sick children. Anne’s help and advice is always readily available. She sent to me a letter from Dr Lynne McDonald, Clinical Psychologist regarding the results of a very special therapy session with two girls who had an extreme fear of dogs and would scream and run away on just the sight of a dog. Dr McDonald had previously shown our special “Children and Dogs” film and found this very useful. The therapy session with Anne and Eilidh proved most beneficial. There is also a report from Anne on another case with which they have helped – a patient they visit in a Glasgow hospital whose young child was also petrified of dogs. Yet more success here and we can only say “Well done Anne & Eilidh, you’ve done it again!”

Increasingly we are being asked to assist with children who have a fear of dogs. For instance in Edinburgh DOUGLAS RUTHVEN and JEAN MCEWARD are much involved as is CLARE COPLAND in Aberdeen where she and “Walton” have recently had a great success.

ANNE MCFARLANE continues to visit East Park Children’s Home in Glasgow with considerable success. Her beloved “Keelie” is now an official part of the school

curriculum - almost a member of staff!. She also has a new girl "Zara" who is just about to start preparing for work!.

LESLEY GRANGER, of Foxbar, Paisley, says that her "Robbie" absolutely adores his visits – three years now – and he takes a soft toy with him so that the residents can play with him. They think him so clever (which he is of course!) and it was his own idea – one day he just took a toy out of the car with him and he has done so ever since!

INEZ WOOD, who is one of our Aberdeen Therapet Representatives, writes:-

### **"Therapets Save the Day"**

When Heron and Ghillie, my Shetland Sheepdogs, were visiting their Nursing Home one Thursday in August one of the residents asked if I was coming to the annual fund-raising Fayre being held in the grounds of the home on the following Saturday. Knowing that Heron had won prizes at competitions she said that there was to be obedience and so we duly arrived at the Fayre and, enquiring, I was told that the billed display was called off by the trainer at very short notice. No deputy being available I, jokingly, offered to demonstrate an obedience exercise with their Therapets, Heron and Ghillie, must to the delight of the staff who quickly rearranged the lounge. Fortunately they did not let me down, performing admirably and gaining much applause and, of course, not forgetting the titbits!"

A delightful letter has been received, personally written by MUTLEY BALNEAVES:-

"Time flies by and it's four months since I joined the THERAPET SCHEME and my master thinks I took to it like a duck to water. I love my visits to Dorward House, Montrose, and get a great welcome from the staff and patients although most of them think I have a stupid name but it was my master's granddaughter who named me and it stuck. My master thinks that because I have settled down so well that it is time for me to visit another place and has phoned Norma to see if my services are needed elsewhere. Anyway bye for now and happy visiting.

**Muttley"**

And a lovely item in "VAO News", the Orkney Volunteer publication, about TRUDY MARWICK and Golden Retriever "Morse" and the terrific success of visits made to the elderly at Scarva Taing Home for the Elderly. Trudy is no stranger to volunteering and has been involved in various activities in the community over a number of years. The article gave a lovely "plug" for Canine Concern! Great to have visits made to such far flung places. Lovely picture too with Morse wearing his Therapet coat!

A very sweet letter from AGNES ADAMS of Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. She is now 84 and her beloved "Bonny" was 16 years old in January – two "oldies" as she puts it! It was mainly to wish me well after the accident, but so good to have her blessing and know that they are still happy together.

A long letter from VAL STREET who used to visit Angusfield in Aberdeen with Therapet Sam. 2004 was not a good year for Val. Her brother had a major stroke and her mother was in the same hospital in Southampton, a floor below, and sadly died. Val stayed down south to be able to visit her mother and brother. Her brother was moved to a rehab unit in the grounds of the hospital. And Sam became a Temporary Therapet at the unit and was made most welcome by patients and Staff. Sam suffers from arthritis and one of the nurses regularly practised his Reiki skills on Sam. Just before Christmas Val was able to bring her brother back up to Aberdeen to live in Cranford Nursing home where Val and Sam visit him as many as five times a week. Sam has been welcomed by the staff at Cranford where HAMISH MUNRO, one of our Aberdeen Therapet Representatives, and Newfoundland "Shadow" are very regular visitors. Val says "I know the Southampton Unit were sorry to see him go – patients, staff and visiting families alike – and he certainly Therapetted me very well through a miserable year." Yes Val, our dogs give us so much, and it is great that the Therapet Scheme enables us also to share our dogs with many people who would otherwise not have contact with a pet.

Please forgive me if I have not included anything about your dogs but space is limited this time. However, please do continue to let us know how you are getting on as it does cheer us up so much. Well done and grateful thanks to you all.

**DR. BRIAN SPROULE** We continue to miss our very dear Brian and we have had a letter from Irene thanking CCST for our flowers. In his funeral announcement Irene said "Do not grieve for him, he lived life to the full." A lovely way to be remembered. We are now faced with the difficult task of finding a new Trustee, hopefully with medical knowledge, to replace Brian. All our love to you Irene.

**THE ANIMAL WELFARE SCOTLAND BILL** is expected to be published before long. The Trust made a significant contribution to the consultation process initiated by the Scottish Executive. The Trust will seek to make relevant representations once the details of the proposed legislation are available. The Trust is indebted to Trustees George Leslie and Allan Sim for their work in this connection.

**PARKS & DOGS** An interesting article was accessed via the web, from the United States. This was very kindly forwarded to me by Mrs J Rennie of Aberdeen. Apparently investigations and programmes have been initiated regarding the provision of special Dog Parks, not just sections but whole parks, where no children would be allowed and where dogs could run free, supervised of course. It is a very long article but if you would like a copy please let me, or Nick, know. We would be interested to have your views. On the face of it, it sounds a good idea – putting it into practice might be more difficult.

**THE TRUSTEES** held their half yearly meeting, on 10<sup>th</sup> April, which sadly I was unable to attend. Seemingly it went very well and it was agreed that you should have more details of our Trustees for your own information. I may be contacted at the address and number shown on the first page of this Bulletin. My colleagues, who may also be contacted, are:-

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**MEMBERSHIP** – Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2005. Thank you also for the many donations that have accompanied the membership fees. If you have not renewed yet this year we very much hope that you will and a pink reminder slip is enclosed.

We are so grateful to members and friends who are tax payers and who send their memberships and donations under the **GIFT AID SCHEME**. This enables the Trust to claim 28p from the Inland Revenue for each £1 received under the Scheme. Our Treasurer has just submitted the claim for the 2004/2004 tax year for a magnificent total of £852.50.

**PUBLICITY** - We are, of course, always looking for new members and new Therapet volunteers. We do advertise in local newspapers from time to time but it is expensive and therefore cannot do as much as we would like. We do find that some of the best publicity we receive, which often results in new volunteers, is press coverage of Therapets in action. If you are able to interest your local paper this could be really beneficial and I know Nick would be happy to help you with this. It is, of course, necessary to check with the home or hospital that you are visiting before speaking to the paper.

We get wonderful publicity each year at Scottish Kennel Club's two Championship Shows, which I have already mentioned. Many of our Area Representatives have stands at events in their areas. This year we will be having stands for the first time at the Drymen Agricultural Show on 28 May and the Doune & Dunblane Agricultural Show on 2 July.

**FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES** go very well and the Trust will be holding the usual STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND sponsored walks from September onward. More details in the August Bulletin. Do you think you could organise one in your area? Mrs Llamo of Lockerbie has very kindly donated a trophy to be awarded each year to the organiser whose walk raises the most money – so a real incentive to have a go!!

The top organiser in 2004 was MAUREEN HILL in Dumfries and Maureen organises lots of other fund raising activities throughout the year. As does Vivien Moen in Badenoch & Strathspey who this year has got herself involved in a Bingo Tea which sounds great fun. Last year it was a Bridge afternoon. Recently CHRISTINE WATT'S husband Donald celebrated a round numbered birthday and Christine arranged a party for family and friends. Instead of presents for Donald it was suggested that guests make donations to Canine Concern and we received a magnificent sum of £300.

Which brings me nicely on to the **AWARDS LUNCH** which this year will take place on Sunday 20 November at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate. It is always such a happy event that we all enjoy. More details will be given in the August Bulletin, but do please put the date in you diary meantime.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July our **Area and Therapet Representatives** will be having a full day's meeting with the **Trustees** to discuss all aspects of the Trust's work and especially the Therapet Scheme and our educational programmes. If there any ideas, thoughts, concerns, suggestions, queries etc that you would like to have raised at the meeting please let your Representative know or alternatively get in touch with Nick here at the office.

I think that more or less takes care of the Bulletin this time. Do have a lovely summer with your wonderful dogs and please keep writing to me with your news.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

### **Chair of Trustees**

Please remember:-

- The Companion Dog Show on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June in Queens Park, Glasgow.
- To consider organising or participating in a Stepping Out for Scotland sponsored walk.
- The Awards Lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> November
- **To renew your membership**, if you have not already done so!