



Bulletin No. 102 September 2021

Dear Members, Volunteers, Therapets and Friends

We are very pleased that our Therapet Visiting Services have now resumed, albeit in a cautious manner. Thank you to everyone who has returned their Statement of Fitness forms and contacted their Area Representative about their intentions to visit. We know that many people are not ready to resume visiting and there is no rush to do so. But, for those wishing to get started there may be some upcoming events that they can participate in, even if the usual places they visit are still closed to us.

We delayed this newsletter until late September to allow time to cope with the massive increase in administration in the office. We have been inundated with enquiries about becoming a volunteer and visit requests, and with the increased paperwork due to our service resumption we have been extremely busy. The PVG application process has now changed, and it is taking time to adapt to the new requirements. Norma and Carole were on furlough and were recalled early to cope with this demand. We are very pleased to have them back! If you have contacted us and have not had a response within a week, we apologise and please let us know and we will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, I have also needed surgery on my hand and am somewhat incapacitated, so if you have contacted me and have not heard back yet, please let me know.

Keep in touch with your Area Representative/Office particularly if you have any queries or concerns

Take care everyone and let's hope our Therapets enjoy getting lots of cuddles as they get back to 'work'.

Mel Hughes
CEO

News from the Trustee Directors

Our Board meeting was held virtually on 12th September.

Policy Updates

The Board approved updates to our GDPR Privacy Notice - Members and Volunteers. Our Volunteer Handbook has now been updated to contain this and our Covid Guidelines for Visiting. Our Therapet Risk & Control Register, and our Therapet Visiting Risk Assessments have also been updated to reflect the current situation.

Commercial and Non-commercial Movements of Pets Into Great Britain

Our Animal Health, Education and Legislation Committee have submitted a response to the recent DEFRA consultation on pet travel and imports to the UK. In June, the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill was introduced to parliament to outline restrictions on both commercial and non-commercial movement of pets on welfare grounds and to support enforcement of existing rules. The proposed measures include

- Increasing the minimum age at which dogs can be brought into Great Britain
- Prohibiting movement of dogs with cropped ears and docked tails
- Prohibiting movement of heavily pregnant female dogs

The Scottish Kennel Club Double Championship Show 2021



After several postponements, the Scottish Kennel Club will be holding their annual show from 30th September to 3rd October 2021 at the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh. We will have a stand in the trade area to promote our services and recruit new volunteers. If you are attending the show, please drop by and say hello!

Therapet Q & A Webinar



On Thursday the 7th October at 7.00pm we will be holding a Webinar to answer any questions that you might have about the resumption of our Therapet Visiting Service. We will have a panel that will include our CEO, some Directors, and our guest speaker, Therapet volunteer and virologist, Hazel Tomkins, will give a presentation on sanitisation. Volunteers will be encouraged to ask questions during this event. Please register in advance via this link

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UdALIE9eRMiIK2VbsU3mVw

Long Service Award Presentation

In our last newsletter we mentioned our 20+ years award winners and in June we were happy to have an office outing to Onich, near Fort William, to present Jean Coke with her engraved crystal vase. Mel, Lesley, and Carole had a lovely afternoon with Jean and a combined total of seven dogs in her huge sea front garden! As you can see below, Jean was absolutely delighted with the award as were we to present it to her. Therapet Cassie who retired in June and her housemate were great playmates with Mel's four dogs and Lesley's 'Office Therapet' Romey, who all had a great time running amok with each other!



Membership Renewal 2021

Following January's bulletin, the membership renewals were sent out by email or post to those who requested it. Thank you to those of you who have returned these to us. If you have yet to renew your membership, and intend to visit, please get in touch and we will get this processed.

The 2021 Annual Membership fees are:

Single	£10
Joint	£15
Senior Citizen	£5
Under 16	£5
Corporate*	£20

The Therapet Registration fee is a one-off payment of £5. Anyone can support CCST by becoming a supporting member, but, for insurance purposes, Therapet Volunteers must retain their membership if planning to resume visiting once we are able.

**The Corporate membership is for organisations e.g., dog clubs or vet practices, that are interested in our work and wish to support us, but they usually do not have active volunteers with us.*

Statement of Fitness Forms

You should have received a copy of our Pathway Document by email and/or post. This contains our Statement of Fitness for both Therapet and volunteer. The volunteer statement is for insurance purposes to ensure that, at time of signing, you are not displaying any symptoms of COVID 19 and that you are aware that should you test positive you must not visit!

The Therapet form is to ensure that you remain confident that your pet is still in good health and retains a suitable temperament to continue its role as a Therapet and remains on a non-raw food diet. Your Therapet's vaccinations (or titration tests), and parasite regime as directed by your vet need to be up to date before your pet resumes Therapet visiting.

Please note that we need a signed copy returned to our office (by email or post) before you will be able to undertake any Therapet visiting. If you need a new copy of this form, please contact the office.

In Memory of...

Every year we celebrate the lives of our animals who have given so much to us as family pets and to others as Therapets. Since our last newsletter, we have sadly said goodbye to the following Therapets:



Alfie, a Collie, owned by Barbara Todd, Orkney

A Therapet for over 5 years with a medal to show for his great work which he very much enjoyed at Smiddybrae Day Centre. Alfie will not only be sorely missed by owner Barbara and her husband but also by Josh his fellow retired Therapet housemate, oh and one of their hens who liked to chase him round the garden!

Breagha, a Springer Spaniel, owned by Robyn Mackie, Perthshire

Breagha had been registered as a Therapet since 2015 and had received her 5-year medal. Her regular visits were to Murray Royal Hospital, Dunning Primary School, and HMP Perth where she brought smiles to all she visited. She was 14 years old and will be missed by her all those who knew her and Poppy, her Springer Spaniel Therapet friend.

Brora, a Flat Coated Retriever, owned by Moira Lumby, Perthshire

Brora was a registered Therapet from 2017 where she visited many places in the Perthshire area including Stormont Lodge, Perth Academy, Perth College,

Goodlyburn Primary School and Perth Royal Infirmary Stroke Unit. Brora had attained a 3-year service Therapet Certificate and will be missed by all including her Therapet housemate Bramble.

Cody, a German Shepherd, owned by Ian Rodger, Aberdeen

Registered in 2018, Cody visited Balnagask Care Home, and Ferryhill and Broomhill Primary Schools in Aberdeen. Cody received his 3-year certificate in 2021 and made a difference to the lives of the many adults and children he visited. Cody will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Corran, a Labrador Retriever, owned by Alison McKichan, Edinburgh

Therapet Corran and her owner Alison visited Eildon Nursing home in Edinburgh where they were very popular, welcome and regular visitors pre-pandemic. Undefeated by the current visiting constraints, like so many of our intrepid Therapets and volunteers, they did lockdown 'window waves' instead of indoor visits to their 'fans' at the Nursing Home.

Fearne, a Labrador Retriever, owned by Lucy Taylor, Perthshire

Fearne was registered as a Therapet in 2011 and received her 10-year service medal in 2021 - a rare and heroic achievement indeed! Fearne visited Madderty Primary School in Crieff and will be sadly missed by those she visited and all those who knew and loved her.

Freya, a Bernese Mountain Dog, owned by Margery Bruce, Edinburgh

Freya retired from Therapet duties in June 2021 with age and health taking its toll. When on active Therapet duties, Freya attended PAWS events in Edinburgh, including the session held at Police Headquarters at Fettes pre pandemic. She will be sorely missed.

Harvey, a Beagle, owned by Mansha Kohli, Glasgow

Although registered as a Therapet in April 2019 Harvey never got to start his visiting career with us, but we're sure he would have made a great Therapet as, like all our Therapets, he 'loved people and cuddles!' He will be missed.

Jensen, a Golden Retriever, owned by Lynsey Roberts, Ayrshire

Jensen registered as a Therapet in 2017 and received his 3-year medal in 2020. Jensen and Lynsey visited Carrick House Nursing Home and Crossgate Care Home and will be sadly missed by those he visited.

Jet, a Miniature Poodle, owned by Claire Cunningham, Glasgow

As a regular weekly visitor to Gartnavel Hospital, Jet thoroughly enjoyed his visits to patients and as his bereft owner Claire puts it 'spread his love and

charm throughout the entire hospital'. Christmas celebration visits were a joy for all with Jet sitting in the Christmas cart. Jet will be sorely missed.

Kallie, a Chocolate Labrador, owned by Lorraine Mason, Glasgow

Receiving her 5-year service Therapet medal in 2019 Kallie, visited the Vale of Leven Hospital and the Robin House for children with short life expectancy during her 7-year Therapeting career. During this time, she brought great pleasure to those she visited. Kallie will be well remembered and sorely missed by all who knew her.

Katie, a Boxer, owned by Helen Rhind, Inverness

Registered as a Therapet in June 2019, Katie and volunteer Helen were visitors to Ach-an-Eas Care Home, and New Craigs Hospital both in Inverness. She brought smiles to those she visited and will be sorely missed by owner Helen and all who knew and loved her.

Liam, a Golden Retriever, owned by Jackie Hunt, Aberdeen

Liam was a valued Therapet for 8 years visiting Mowat Court in the early years of carrying out his Therapet duties and then Arduthie Primary School, where he participated in the 'Reading With Dogs' service, both in Stonehaven. Sadly missed.

Minnie, an English Springer Spaniel, owned by Laura Fergus, Glasgow

Minnie registered as a Therapet in 2016 and had achieved a 3-year certificate before taking semi-retirement in 2019. During her active years, Minnie visited Care Homes and was an attentive Therapet listener at the Reading with Dogs service at Neilston Primary School. Minnie will be missed.

Mitch, a Beagle, owned by Elizabeth McEwan, North Lanarkshire

Registered in 2018 Mitch was a very welcome visitor to St Andrews Hospice Airdrie, and his visits were much appreciated by all there. He will be sadly missed by those he visited and leaves a big hole in the hearts of those who loved him.

Poppy, a Bichon Frise, owned by Rev Elizabeth Malaney, Ayrshire

Poppy had been a registered Therapet since 2016 and visited Woodlands View Unit Irvine where she both so popular and appreciated that one resident composed a poem to Poppy. This has now been framed where it can continue to be cherished.

Rhua, a Border Terrier, owned by June Hutton, Fife

As a 'working' Therapet for over 10 years with a rarely achieved 10 year medal to prove it, Rhua brought so much joy and so many smiles of pleasure to the countless numbers of people she visited at The Jean Mackie Centre and Leys Park Nursing home in Dunfermline. Indeed, all who knew and met her. Rhua was June's constant companion, accompanying June while undertaking her duties as Fife Area Representative - Rhua will be sorely missed.

Sykes, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, owned by Gillian Nicol, Aberdeen

Sykes had been a Therapet since 2019 and visited Woodend Hospital and previously Northfield Lodge Aberdeen where he was a welcome visitor. Sykes was 7 years old. He will be sadly missed.

Talisker, a Northern Inuit, owned by Kayte Prentice, Orkney

Registered as a Therapet in 2017, Talisker and his owner Kayte Prentice visited Orkney College, Kirkwall Grammar School and Orphir Primary School as well as the Lifestyle Day Centre during their Therapeting and volunteering career. Much loved as both pet and Therapet, Talisker will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Tasha, a Collie/Spaniel and Roe a Springer Spaniel, both owned by Linda Laughlin, Fife

Tasha was registered as a Therapet in 2019 and visited Balfarg Care Home and Age Concern Friendship Club both in Glenrothes. Housemate Roe was registered in 2020 just at the start of the pandemic and was unable to undertake her Therapet role. Both Tasha and Roe died during COVID and will be sorely missed by owner Linda and all who knew them.

Toby, a Greyhound, owned by Rebecca Curtis-Moss, Edinburgh

Registered as a Therapet in March 2020 just at the start of the pandemic, Toby never got to start his Therapet visiting career. However, we're sure he would have made a great one, like all of our Therapets, he was 'relaxed, friendly and loved meeting new people. Sadly missed.

Apologies if we have missed any Therapet. Please do let us know and we will give them a mention in our next newsletter. If your Therapet has recently passed away, please contact the office and let them know whether you wish to continue to receive correspondence. This is important as so much of our communication is instant via email these days and sometimes grieving pet owners want to continue to receive news while others find it too difficult.

Pet Health – Travelling in Cars

As a reminder, now that we are travelling more frequently than in the last year, it is a legal requirement across the UK to ensure that all animals are secure during travel. In the Highway Code, Rule 57 states 'When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, pet carrier, dog cage or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars.

Touching Tribute

A lovely reminder from Gillian Leung on the third anniversary of Tess's death that although our Therapets may be gone, they are never forgotten!

'Tess the Therapet'

Tess had a love for life and people which shone out of her. Tess made friends quickly with everyone she met which made her the perfect Therapet. Our main Therapet visits took place in a care home in the southside of Glasgow. Many of these residents had dementia or were immobile but their faces lit up as soon as Tess arrived. The residents spoke to Tess, enjoyed stroking her and giving her the occasional treat. There was a palpable difference in the atmosphere when Tess was there – and the care home staff also seemed to benefit from our visits. The residents enjoyed hearing all about Tess's other adventures including long walks, trips away with us and competing in agility competitions.



We also participated in 'Paws against Stress' where Tess visited universities during exam time to help alleviate student anxiety. One student from overseas was particularly memorable as Tess reminded her of the dog she was missing at home. Tess instinctively knew how people were feeling and seemed to gravitate to this student and make her feel better.

Tess gave her love freely and willingly to everyone she met, and I am so glad we shared the Therapet experience together.

Informative Talks

Future talks will include:

- Therapet visiting for new volunteers
- What to expect when visiting a school for the first time
- Confidentiality when volunteering
- Dementia awareness

We will either record the talk or make summary notes depending on the choice of the presenter so if you are unable to attend a talk but would like the notes or to listen to the recording, please let us know.

Volunteer Coordination Roles

Area Representatives

We would like to thank Kerry Roberts for all of her hard work in Dundee & Angus. While Kerry is staying with us, she is taking a step back from her Area Rep role to focus on other aspects of her life. Kerry has been extremely committed to her dogs, and her work with young people and these skills have been invaluable to the Therapet service. Although Margaret Pengelly is still overseeing this area, if anyone would like to support her, please contact us.

After many years, Area Representative for Stirlingshire, Lynsey Thomson is also taking a step back from this role. Lynsey is on our Board of Directors and provides invaluable guidance on NHS practices. Lynsey will continue to support volunteers in this region, and those who have expressed an interest about stepping into her role - we will announce these in the next newsletter.

In Ayrshire, Shona Morris has been Area Representative for several years, however, she has recently moved outwith the region. We would like to welcome existing volunteers George Brabender and Shirley Denovan who will be taking over from Shona in North Ayrshire. If there are any volunteers who would like to help out in South or East Ayrshire, please let us know.

Vacant Positions

We are looking for members to take on the role of an Area Representative in Dumfries & Galloway, Edinburgh West, and Perthshire. These roles may be shared or split into different aspects, e.g., someone overseeing 'Paws against Stress' events, school activities or assessing and placing new volunteers. Please email Mel on mel.hughes@canineconcernscotland.org.uk if you would like to know more about any of these positions.

Fundraising and Donations

There are so many ways that supporters have raised money for us these last few months. Thank you all so much for your support. Here are just a few examples.

Easy Fundraising supporter Gillian McCready has raised over £100 in donations for us by using Easy Fundraising for her online shopping. If you haven't looked at this it is an easy way for charities to make money through online purchases e.g. insurance, utilities, holidays etc, at no extra cost to you. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>.

We have also had donations of amounts up to £250 on our Just Giving account. These donations help us to complete administration for the Therapet Service, assess potential Therapets, and provide support to our volunteers, so are very necessary and welcome.

<https://www.justgiving.com/canine-concern-scotland-trust>

Fundraising Events

We had been planning on another sponsored walk this year, however with our visiting services operational and so many other charities holding events during October, we have decided to push ours back to Spring 2022. In the meantime, if you still wish to participate in any event on our behalf, we would be very grateful.

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