

BULLETIN 56 – April 2006

Dear Members and Friends

As I write this short April Bulletin it is officially Spring and let's hope that we shall soon have a little warmth to ease our bones!! I still find walking difficult but will be more encouraged to go out if and when the sun shines!

For us it has been a very sad time as we had to have our darling Matty given peaceful sleep on 18th February – our last Caldarvan Boxer, and the house is dogless and desolate as most of you will understand. Strangely enough, reading last year's April Bulletin I see that is the same date as James & Lynne Macdonald lost their O.E.S. "Echo". Matty, bless her, was 11 years old. I still find it hard to believe that she has gone. Losing a dog is indescribable and most of us try to find different solutions – if any. Some get another dog straight away whilst some prefer, like us, to wait a short while to get over the shock a little. Matty lies in our garden next to Leo. Sleep warm darling Matty, and also:

Sandra Barton's Irish Setter FOLLY
Brenda Day's Boxer CASSIE
Jennifer Ball's GSD Winston
Linda Waddell's Border Collie BLUE
Alistair Doran's Greyhound CONNOR
Irene Almand's Collie Cross SPATZ
Margaret McVitie's Labrador BEAVER
Pamela Roxburgh's Flat Coat Retriever FRAIOCH
Petsy Thomson & Alistair Thomas' Bichon Frise SPIKE
Isobel Blair's KIRSTY

PRIZE DRAW TICKETS are enclosed, with no obligation whatsoever although we hope as many as possible will be sold as the Draw is an important part of our annual fund raising effort. We are grateful to all donors of prizes, and sellers and buyers of tickets!. Many more books of tickets are here if required.

Our **COMPANION DOG SHOW** takes place as usual in Queens Park, Glasgow (Victoria Road gate) on Sunday 4th June. Entries are taken on the day from 10.30am. Pedigree classes will be judged by **SUE DYKES** and I know you will give her a great entry. Judging of Pedigree and Obedience classes starts at 11.30am. Show Manager, and Trustee, **JOHN STEAD** will be delighted to hear from anyone able to help with the setting up of the show first thing in the morning. John's telephone number is 01436 675381.

We hope to have our two Patrons with us, **LESLEY FITZ-SIMONS** (late of "HIGH ROAD") and leading journalist **ROSEMARY LONG**, and maybe some other celebrity guests if we are able to twist their arms!! As always we invite Glasgow's Lord Provost, or a senior Bailie, to present the trophies.

Our very good friends from **KIRKINTILLOCH & DISTRICT DOG TRAINING CLUB** will be giving demonstrations of Agility Work and the very exciting Flyball during the day.

And, of course, we shall have a **THERAPET PARADE** so that a good round of applause, a rosette and a bag of goodies, donated by BURNS, can be given to these wonderful dogs and their owners for all the work they do up and down the whole of Scotland. It is hoped to have the parade around 3.00 pm but this always depends on how the judging goes, it could be a little earlier or a little later so we ask for your forbearance if it is not exactly on time. We hope that as many of our Volunteers will come along with their Therapets to participate in the Parade. A form is enclosed and I would be grateful if you would make sure it reaches the office here at least A WEEK BEFORE THE SHOW so I can make out the running order and commentary beforehand.

THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2005 are also enclosed for your information. The Trustees are delighted that the high level of our work has been maintained. Thank you all for your support, it could not be done without you. I must give special thanks to husband Nick for his work as Treasurer and Administrator, he works so hard to keep us all straight and well informed, not to mention all he does for the Therapet Scheme and all the extra load put on him by my inability to do as much as I once did. (Poor old soul!!)

MEMBERSHIPS became due on 1st January and a great many of you have already renewed and we are extremely grateful for the large number of donations that accompany the membership fees. For those of you who have perhaps forgotten to renew this year so far a pink reminder slip is enclosed. If you have recently paid, or if we have put in a reminder slip in error, please ignore this plea to renew! For Therapet Volunteers it is important that memberships are up to date, not least from the insurance angle.

STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND SPONSORED WALKS. Perhaps now is the time to give a thought to our annual sponsored walks, which are such enjoyable social occasions and help so much with our funds. The walks are normally held in September or October. The last Bulletin went out before we heard of a final amount raised at James Macdonald's walk in Glasgow which brought his total to £970.58. As reported in the January Bulletin Jean Llamo of Lockerbie kindly donated a trophy to be awarded each year to the Walk Organiser whose walk raises the greatest amount of money. In memory of Matty, who raised quite a bit over the years, Nick and I will be donating a trophy to be awarded to the individual who obtains the greatest amount of sponsorship money each year. If you would like to have a go at organising a walk this year please let Nick know. We will publicise details of the walks in the August Bulletin. We will be able to supply rosettes for the human walkers to wear and some rewards for the dogs!

Talking of sponsored events we were delighted to learn that **ALAN RAWLINGS** of Earlston will be running in the Edinburgh Marathon and that the Trust will benefit from some of the sponsorship money he raises. Thank you in advance Alan!

THE THERAPET SCHEME continues apace – the August bulletin will contain all the news and stories that we have received in recent months.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Trustees

PS David Stuart-Calder tells me that he has published the story of his first Elkhound. The book is entitled "**Zoey**" and is available direct from David at a cost of £5.00. David's telephone number is 01224 683793 and his e-mail address is tomlaith@hotmail.com. Profits go to the PDSA and the Jamaican SPCA.