

BULLETIN 59 – April 2007

Dear Members and Friends

I hope that all is well with you at this lovely time of year – Easter as, I write, is a truly beautiful one weatherwise. Looking back at the January bulletin I see I was rash enough to say I hoped this year would see us less accident prone than last year. I should have known better than to say things like that – “tempting fate” they call it!! And sure enough on the last day of January I missed the handle of the kitchen door, fell full length over poor little Zak (luckily he was OK if a little surprised!), breaking my hip in the process. So an ambulance to Campbeltown hospital and then an air ambulance from Campbeltown Airport to the Southern General in Glasgow for an operation and a nine night stay. I was flown home on the scheduled flight from Glasgow to Campbeltown. I had always wanted a trip on our “local” small plane but not in quite the same way! I am beginning to get back to normal although still not very mobile.

One of the main purposes of this brief Bulletin is to enclose a copy of **THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS** for the year ended 31 December 2006. I hope that you find this satisfactory reading.

PRIZE DRAW TICKETS are also 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 3rd June. Entries are taken on the day from 10.30am. Pedigree classes will be judged by **CAROL ANNAN** of Scottie fame and I know that she will draw a super entry and we shall look forward to the pleasure of your company with your dogs. 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** and **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 our usual **THERAPET PARADE**. This is an ideal opportunity to publicise the **THERAPET SERVICE** and at the same time pay a public tribute to so very many of you and your dogs who bring much happiness to very many people in all parts of Scotland. It is hoped to have the parade around 3.00 pm, but this always depends on how the timings of the other events work out, 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.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES In January we were very sorry to hear from **CHRISTINE WATT** to the effect that, because of other commitments, she was no longer able to continue in her role as Representative for **FIFE**. However we are delighted that she is able to continue on the Committee of Management. In Christine's place we welcome **ANN HUGHES** who brings with her lots of enthusiasm, Therapet experience and a wealth of knowledge about dogs. Ann's telephone number is 01592 882178.

In the **BORDERS** I am pleased to say that **CAROLINE MCDERMOTT** is now again able to help with the assessment of potential Therapets. We very much hope that other existing Volunteers in the Borders will also be able to help with the Therapet Scheme in the area.

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.

THE THERAPET SCHEME continues with great success and at present we are in the process of designing new leaflets. As this is just a brief Bulletin it will be the August bulletin which will contain all the news and stories that we have received from you in recent months.

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. 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!

All good wishes to two and four-legged friends meantime and enjoy the Summer!

Yours sincerely

Chair of Trustees