

BULLETIN 55 – January 2006

Dear Members and Friends

First of all, a very Happy New Year to you, your families and of course- your dogs! As I write the sun is shining and we have had no snow, so a good start! As you know 2005 was not the best of years for us personally due to our accident last Christmas and I still stagger rather than walk – complete with stick – but thanks to Nick and many good friends we get by. Matty, thankfully, is still with us and is now 11 years old, bless her. However she got a very bad ulcer in her right eye and as after several stitchings and unstitchings of her eyelids there was no improvement it was decided it would be better to have the eye removed. So she is now our precious one-eyed dog and copes very well. Walks with her master are short ones now but her main hobby (eating) remains unchanged!!

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

I was pleased to be able to attend and it was great to see so many good friends. Once again it took place at the Swallow Kaim Park Hotel in Bathgate, on 20th November, and was a very happy occasion. It was good to be back! We were delighted to welcome Patron Lesley Fitz-Simons who made the presentations

THE THERAPET OF THE YEAR was a very handsome Yellow Labrador from Grantown-on-Spey. His name is **MILLAR** and his proud owners are **JUDITH AND STUART HAMLETT**. Millar was nominated by our Area Representative for Badenoch & Strathspey **VIVIEN MOEN** and by Sara Chalmers who is Matron at Grandview House Nursing Home in Grantown. To quote from his nominators:-

Sara Chalmers wrote:- “I would like to commend Millar for the fantastic service that is provided by his visits to Grandview. All of our client group enjoy these times, and look forward to them. Millar is of a friendly and gentle disposition, and is a credit to Therapet and his owners.”

In her nomination Vivien wrote:- “Millar has been visiting residences for the elderly, throughout Spey Valley, for the last three years and seems to be equally popular with the staff as well as the residents. He has a very gentle, affectionate nature and really enjoys his work.

Apart from this very important contribution, Millar has been a great asset with fund raising by carrying a collecting “bucket” at most of our events over the years. He also attended a special pre Christmas shopping day in Kingussie, plus an appearance at the recent opening of a pet superstore in Aviemore – all in all he has personally collected over £230.

His other claim to fame was the presenting of prizes (in a small posy basket) at the Bridge afternoon we ran in April 2004 – I am sure this motivated several late donations!”

As always we had wonderful nominations and this year the **Runner Up** for Therapet of the Year was **HOLLY** owned and loved by **CAROL SANDERS**. Holly is a beautiful Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and she was nominated by Geraldine Stenson who is the Voluntary Services Manager at the MACMILLAN Centre in STRAHCATHRO and by Irene Mitchell who is Depute Manager at the Montrose Day Care Centre.

The following is an extract from one of the nominations:-

“Faces light up when she comes to the Centre every week. The patients find stroking her beautiful silky coat soothing. They can talk to her about anything and she accepts everything about them. She removes the sense of isolation people with cancer can often feel, and creates instead a sense of connection, family and belonging. Holly’s visits here have made a significant difference to all of us at the Centre. We love you Holly. Thank you for being with us.”

This year the **THERAPET ORGANISER OF THE YEAR AWARD** went to Badenoch and Strathspey Area Representative **VIVIEN MOEN** in recognition of all her hard work and dedication.

Vivien first registered her Golden Retriever Coire Beag as a Therapet in 2001 and quickly became much involved. She became an assistant to Diane Wood from Inverness in 2002 and subsequently started covering her own area in her own right and very successfully too.

Vivien has built a very close team of Therapet Volunteers and she organises them superbly so that the homes in her area wishing to have a Therapet visit are always covered on a very regular basis. She arranges regular meetings of the volunteers in her area at which they consider all aspects of Therapet visiting in the area and plan numerous fund raising activities. Bridge afternoons, a Bingo Tea, stands at the Figgat Fair and the Grantown Show, sponsored walks – there is always something happening.

Vivien has the wonderful knack of knowing how to get participation and help from the volunteers in her area. She keeps the Administrator fully up to date with what is going on. Recently she, with helpers, arranged a meeting with local schools to talk about the Trust’s educational programme.

This year there was a new award to make. It was donated by Jean Llamo of Lockerbie to be awarded to the **Walk Organiser** whose walk raised the most money in the **Stepping Out For Scotland** series of sponsored walks. It was won by Trustee and Area Representative for Glasgow **JAMES MACDONALD** whose walk in Queens Park Glasgow raised a magnificent £845.68. What we didn’t know until early

December was that Maureen Hill's walk in Dumfries, which was held a week before the lunch, topped James' total with a magnificent £ 897.50. Maureen's initial assessment was that her total would be in the region of £500, so we felt safe in making the award to James, but the sponsorships and donations kept coming in!

The prestigious **IAIN WHYTE MEMORIAL AWARD** is made to a person or organisation whose work has been of special benefit to the Trust over the past year or a period of years. This year the award was made to **ANNE MACDONALD** who has done outstanding Therapet work over many years. Her Springer Spaniel, **EILIDH**, was registered as a Therapet in May 1996. Anne and Eilidh have been the most dedicated of visitors over all these years. Eilidh was awarded Therapet of the Year in 2001 but this year it was Anne who was honoured

Over all these years Anne has been a regular visitor at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow at both the Physically Disabled Rehabilitation unit and the Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit – she is almost like a member of staff there!!

Also, and arguably most importantly, Anne has done wonderful work at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill, Glasgow. Through determination and sound argument Anne managed to persuade the hospital of the therapeutic value to children, and their parents, of a dog visiting them whilst in hospital. Many of us have experienced difficulty in having the Therapet Scheme approved in children's hospitals. That Anne gained acceptance is a tribute to her and Eilidh. You may have seen Eilidh on STV recently at the start of a new series about Yorkhill

In 2005 Anne, with Eilidh, has given time to assist a Clinical Psychologist in helping two young girls overcome a severe fear of dogs. We are indeed fortunate in having such a marvellous ambassador for the Therapet Scheme.

Once again a series of sponsored walks, **STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND**, were held in 2005. 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	£689.10
Dumfries	Maureen Hill	£897.50
Glasgow	James Macdonald	£845.58
Grantown	Vivien Moen	£382.00
Westport/Machrihanish	Jan Bell	£ 75.00
Machrhanish	Matty	£196.00
	Overall Total	£3,085.18

I should add that Matty's Machrihanish walk had to be done in several small stages as her various medical conditions restrict her – the spirit was willing but the legs weak! But every little helps Matty!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2006 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 £852.50 – a magnificent sum.

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.

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 which have completed three years of service. Again please let Nick know if your Therapet qualifies.

This year's **COMPANION DOG SHOW** will again be held on the first Sunday in June, the 4th 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 but I am able to tell you that the Pedigree Judge will be SUE DYKES – a very popular lady! There will of course be a Therapet Parade, Road Safety Obedience etc. I shall hope to be there!

SAD DEPARTURES As always I have to report on the loss of some most dearly loved dogs (aren't they all?). I don't know if it is the time of year but there seem to be so many this time.

"Toby", the Westie who was Fiona Henderson's wonder-boy of whom much has been written and who gained Therapets such great publicity, especially on TV in the year of the Queen's Golden Jubilee when the Aberdeen Therapet Team was granted one of the very Special Golden Jubilee Awards for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community. Toby worked hard for many years and will never be forgotten.

Another well known Westie was Irene Alderson's **"Fraoch"** who was famous in the role of "Wee Jock II" in the television series "Hamish Macbeth" as well as being a great Therapet.

Other greatly missed pets include:-

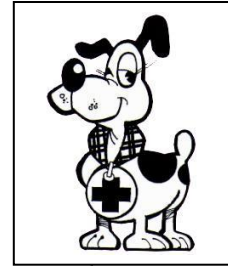
Jean Connor's Leonberger **"Ranger"**
Keith and Greer Abendroth's Rough Collie **"Brodie"**.
Ena Edgar's Sheltie **"Tomboy"**
Douglas and Irene Ruthven's Border Collie **"Cassie"**
Leah Boffey's Mongrel **"Rainbow"**
Dee Rance's Irish Setter **"Tam"**
Ronald Fraser's Irish Setter **"Merlin"**
Joan Underwood's Cavalier King Charles **"Charlie"**
Jocelyn Ness's Gordon Setter **"Tearlach"**

We send our sympathies to all members and friends whose beloved pets are no longer with them.

MAJOR JAMES LOGAN was one of our very first members and we were very sad to hear of his death last year. His loyal generosity always cheered us up, a lovely, lovely man whom we shall all miss. Our sympathies go to his family.

I feel that I must let you know that **MARGARET PARIS** (for many years our Aberdeen Rep who started it all in that area) has been seriously ill for some time, though taking it very bravely. She is now resident in a nursing home in Aberdeen.

I'm sure that you will be sorry to learn that **SALLY LEIPER** no longer has her weekly Scottish column in "Dog World" after doing a great job over very many years. She always gave the Trust's activities good cover. Thank you Sally for your help over the years and we hope that you will be able to include some of our news in your occasional articles for the paper.



THERAPET NEWS

The Therapet Scheme continues to flourish and is being well received all over Scotland. We have volunteers visiting from as far north as Orkney to the very south in the Borders and Dumfries-shire. During 2005 a further 94 Therapets were registered and thanks to the hard work of our Area Reps, ably assisted by Nick, who organises the registration processes so well from here, they are placed into Homes, Hospitals etc as soon as possible. Sometimes there are delays in some areas but more often than not there are many homes waiting for their first Therapet to visit or waiting for a new Therapet to replace one that has been retired or has died.

Once again there has been some great **PUBLICITY** and congratulations to all of you who have managed to get your Therapets “into print”!! It really does help to get new volunteers. Here is a taste.

There was a super picture in The Review in Tayside of **Sophie Cassidy** with her Belgian Shepherds “**Tara**” and “**Petra**” along with **Keith Balneaves** and “**Muttley**” with the staff of Ward 5 at Sunnyside Hospital. A lovely article was included and the picture was also included in the NHS Tayside Nursing Magazine.

Yet another Westie, “**Rory**” proudly owned by **Jacqui and Stuart Guest** featured in their local paper, The Journal and Gazette, on a visit to Bo’ness Hospital where he has become a firm favourite with patients and staff since he started visiting in 2004. Again the picture was accompanied by a really excellent article.

Fiona Stalker in Banchory has now been a very dedicated Therapet Volunteer for ten years. She was photographed by the photographer from her local paper “The Piper” with “**Kimberley**” on a visit to Glen O’Dee Hospital and the paper included a very good article.

We received a wonderful letter from Angus Special Playscheme, which I must let you read.

“Can I just say on behalf of the Board, staff and children a huge appreciative, heartfelt thankyou to your organisation for all the fun and pleasure you have brought to our children and staff alike. Your visits with “Simba” (and Mrs Murray) were a massive success and generated much enthusiasm and talk amongst our children, even those with limited communication abilities expressed themselves clearly to their parents and carers.

Your professionalism, understanding and continued support are a big asset to us and the children are already looking forward to your next visits.

Once again with much appreciation of the superb service you offer. You are worth your weight in gold!

Jane Parker, Chairperson ”

I am sure that all our Therapets and Volunteers up and down Scotland are similarly appreciated.

Dumfries Area Rep **Maureen Hill** amongst her very many activities for the Trust recently attended, and had a display at, the Alzheimer's conference which was held in Dumfries. She made some excellent contacts and already we have received enquiries from other parts of Scotland.

There was a great article in the Press & Journal about Therapet Cavalier King Charles Spaniel "**Poppy**" and her visits, with her owner Eileen Lawson, to women inmates at Aberdeen Prison. The article included very positive comment from the Scottish Prison Service but sadly, and surprisingly, a very negative statement from north-east MSP Richard Lochhead who, incidentally, is a member of the Environment and Rural Development Committee, which is piloting the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill through the Scottish Parliament. Which brings me on to:-

The new **ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION** which is now before the Scottish Parliament has been broadly welcomed by the Trustees. Indeed the Trust has given considerable input into the consultation process and has made detailed comment on certain sections of the Bill. The Bill itself runs to 55 pages and with it were published 43 pages of Explanatory Notes and other documents, 29 pages of the Scottish Executive's Policy memorandum and another 70 pages of briefings. A great deal of the Bill constitutes a significant improvement but some aspects, such as the proposed banning of docking, remain controversial. We are extremely grateful to Trustee **GEORGE LESLIE** for the tremendous amount of time that he has spent studying everything that has been published and for drafting the Trust's submissions to the Scottish Executive. In the UK Parliament separate legislation on animal welfare is being brought forward and one of our concerns is whether there will be any conflict between the two sets of animal welfare legislation.

Another piece of significant legislation is the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Legislation on charities has been overdue for many years and substantially the new Act is to be welcomed. Trustee **ALLAN SIM** has kept the Trustees fully informed on the progress of the legislation and at the most recent meeting of Trustees indicated that he believes that the Trust, as currently constituted and administered, should not have difficulty in complying with the new legislation.

Talking of our **TRUSTEES** I never tire of saying how much their contributions to the Trust are appreciated. Between them they have a wealth of experience and they are happy to be contacted by members. Their contact details are:-

Mr George Leslie

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MACTALLA1@aol.com

Mr James Macdonald

0141 632 4893

James@bramlynn.freeserve.co.uk

Mrs Rita Percival

0141 779 3092

Mr Allan Sim

0131 317 7377

allansim@blueyonder.co.uk

Mr John Stead

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jam.stead@ukgateway.net

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

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.

Accordingly for owners of Therapets I enclose a certificate, which you can ask your Veterinary Surgeon to complete and which you can then keep handy and make available if required. Please contact Nick if you need more certificates.

b) Car Stickers

We have just ordered a new supply of Therapet car stickers. If you need a new one for your car please let Nick know.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS BY COMPANIES

Many employers, and their employees, operate schemes for charitable donations. 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. Last year we received a number of donations of this sort.

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*£ 2.75
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

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Henley Price

Dates for your diary

- a) **Companion Dog Show on Sunday 4th June 2006.**
- b) **Presentation Lunch on Sunday 19th November 2006**