

## BULLETIN 63 – August 2008

Dear Members and Friends

Here I am again – back as Editor of the Bulletin! I would like to thank so many of you who have written following my retirement as a Trustee and Chair of the Trustees.

Our new Chairman of Trustees, George Leslie, has written:-

“There was a mixture of both shock and regret when the Trustees learned of Marjorie’s decision to resign as Trustee.

Canine Concern Scotland and Scotland’s Therapet Service were founded by Marjorie 20 years ago and run by her ever since. It is impossible to think of CCST or Scotland’s Therapets without thinking of the name Marjorie Henley Price.

The Trustees unanimously agreed to create a new post of Honorary Life President and we unanimously agreed that there was only one person to fill that post – Marjorie Henley Price.

The Board of Trustees have asked me to take over as Chairman of the Trustees. While accepting that there is no way I can fill Marjorie’s shoes I believe we all have a responsibility to keep Canine Concern Scotland going from strength to strength, and I would ask for the support and co-operation of all members in trying to achieve this.

All CCST members can contact me at North Glassock, Fenwick, KA3 6ER  
Tel: 01560 600246 (h)”

Thank you very much, George. I know that with you and all the other Trustees CCST is in safe hands.

Very sadly **THE ANNUAL COMPANION DOG SHOW** in Queens Park, Glasgow, had to be cancelled again this year. Not because of the weather but because of the dreadful murder that happened on the Thursday before the show was due to take place. The whole of Queens Park in Glasgow was closed for two weeks whilst investigations took place. We do apologise to those of you who may have turned up, we tried to contact as many as we could but inevitably we were unable to reach all. Next year the Show will take place on **Sunday 7th June**.

The **ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW** is always drawn at the Companion Dog Show sadly for the second year running the Draw had to be postponed. It was decided to make the draw at the next occasion when a number of members were gathered together. This again proved to be the annual meeting of Trustees with the Area and Therapet Representatives. This was held at the Salutation Hotel in Perth on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The draw was made by guest speaker Mrs Ann O'Neill who is the Compliance Officer at the Central Registered Body in Scotland through whom all our Disclosures are processed. The winners were:-

Radio Cassette & CD Player:-	Tom Kerr of Glasgow
£50.00:-	Ann Hunt of Edinburgh
Crystal Bowl:-	Jan Bell of Campbeltown
Book "Understanding Puppies):	Robert Waters of Glasgow
W H Smith Voucher:-	Robert at Goodyear, Glasgow
Threshers Voucher:-	Marsa Tulloch of Dalkeith
Book "Sprigs of Holly":-	Frances Sutton of Elgin
Boars Games:-	Paul Gourlay of Glasgow
Cuddly Toy:-	Vi & John Robertson of Kintore
Marks & Spencer Voucher:-	Dylan Service of Dumfries
Boots Voucher:-	Eluned Sproat of Dumfries
Marks & Spencer Voucher:-	Jane Wedge of Comrie
Voucher:-	Linda Macdonald of Stonehaven
Marks & Spencer Voucher	D Wilson of Dumfries
CD:-	Pat Bryce of Dumfries

**The meeting in Perth** was, I understand, a day well spent. Each year it provides a great opportunity for the Representatives from all over Scotland to meet with the Trustees, and with each other, to discuss the work of the Trust and in particular the Therapet Scheme. In the morning, after George Leslie's welcoming remarks, Nick gave a review of CCST, its structure and finances, and how it operates. This was followed by a wide ranging discussion on the Therapet Service. James Macdonald then gave an update on the work with psychologists and phobic patients. The morning session finished with George Leslie talking about Therapet health and in particular about the ageing of dogs and how we can help to keep them healthy. In the afternoon session Ann O'Neill of CRBS reviewed the current Disclosure system, the implications of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 and she reviewed how the new Disclosure system is likely to be applied when it is introduced, probably in 2009.

For your diary **THE PRESENTATION AWARDS LUNCHEON** will take place at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 1.15 pm. A great opportunity to put some faces to names and enjoy meeting old friends. As well as paying tribute to some very special dogs and people. We hope that you will come along. An application form is enclosed which should be returned to Nick by 10<sup>th</sup> November at the latest. The price is £15.00 per person. Please try to come to this most enjoyable of occasions.

## **THE PRESENTATION AWARDS LUNCHEON contd**

The main object of the lunch is to make our annual awards and these comprise:-

**THE IAIN WHYTE MEMORIAL AWARD** to a person or organisation whose help has contributed substantially to the benefit of the Trust during the year or over a period of years.

**THE SPENCER AWARD FOR THERAPET OF THE YEAR** - application form enclosed and we look forward to receiving lots of nominations. **Please send your application in to Nick by 18th October.** This award is judged by the Trustees who judge all the applications individually – always a very difficult task!

**THE DR MORRIS ANDREW & DANIEL THE SPANIEL MEMORIAL AWARD** is a tribute to one of our much loved and missed Trustees, donated by his family. This is made to the **THERAPET ORGANISER OF THE YEAR.** and the recipient is decided by the Administrator with approval of the Trustees.

**THE KI-CHU-ASHA STARS OF HOPE MEMORIAL TROPHY** which is Awarded to the Organiser of the sponsored event which raises the most money in the year.

**THE MISS MATTY AWARD** to the individual who raises the most money at the sponsored events each year.

We look forward to seeing you!

### **THERAPET OF THE YEAR 2008**

This award allows the Trust to recognise the wonderful work carried out by our Therapets – not just by the winner but by all the Therapets whether nominated or not. We are able to gain valuable publicity for the Scheme at the time the award is made. The Scheme is a success story and we wish to build and develop it so that as many people as possible can benefit from the Scheme. **Therefore please arrange for your Therapet to be nominated by sending in the form, together with, if you wish, one photograph and one press cutting, if you have one.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

A renewal notice was issued with the January Bulletin and a reminder was issued in April to members who had not so far paid. As always the response has been marvellous and we do appreciate the many additional donations that have been received. We are not issuing a further reminder but if you have not paid so far please pop a cheque in the post to Nick. The fees remain at £4.00 single, £6.50 joint and £2.00 Senior Citizen. From the Trust's insurance point of view it is important that all Therapet volunteers have their membership up-to-date.

## **THERAPET**

It is with sadness that in each of our two main Bulletins every year I have to record that a number of much loved Therapets have died. All have done wonderful work as Therapets and even more importantly they have been magnificent pets. Since the last main Bulletin in January we have learned that the following have died:-

**Ali Baba** owned by Fionna Ferguson of Largs  
**Appin** owned by Kathleen Dunn of Beith  
**Bonnie** owned by James and Lynne Macdonald of Glasgow  
**Chess** owned by Caroline McDermott of Chirnside,  
**Cleo** owned by Sandra McAllan of Inverness  
**Eilidh** owned by Ann Macdonald of Neilston  
**Heather** owned by Pamela Hunter of Dunfermline  
**Hogan and Kira** both owned by John & Catherine Waters of Cumbernauld  
**Kerrie** owned by Violet Theobald of Johnstone  
**Lisa** owned by Jean Hart of Crossford  
**My-Tuk** owned by Carol Paterson of Edinburgh  
**Rino** owned by Elizabeth Forbes of Hamilton  
**Sam** owned by Ann Tulley of Ferryden, Montrose  
**Stevie** owned by Morag Shaw of Edinburgh  
**Wallace** owned by Fiona and Andrew Ramsden

I do hope that I have not missed anyone – if I have please let Nick know.

To you all I send sympathy and also thanks for the wonderful work done by both you and your Therapets.

**Therapet News** – we are delighted to welcome a lot more volunteers and their newly registered Therapets and wish you all well in your visiting. So far this year 81 new Therapets have been registered, which is wonderful. It is always a great pleasure to receive news of how our volunteers and their Therapets are getting on so keep writing!

It is not often that I include resignations but **Kay Parsley**, recently of Edinburgh, has written:-

“I’m sorry to be offering my resignation from the Therapet scheme. We are moving south to Berkshire at the beginning of July - following the family. I’ve enjoyed my Therapetting immensely and so has Sooty - all that affection just suited her down to the ground! I hope the patients we visited in Gilmerton Nursing Home got half the benefit from our visits that we got. It was a most rewarding experience. With many thanks for you help and support.”

**Frances Sutton and Lindsay Grant** of Elgin sent in the following remarkable account of **Therapets Spike and Bonzo** in March this year.

“It started on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008. Out for a walk after work, Spike was favouring his front left leg and although a quick examination revealed nothing he was disinclined to walk far. Later that same evening, I rang Neil and suggested he monitored the situation.

A day or two later, with no improvement in the situation, a visit to the vet brought the diagnosis of inflammation; the recommended treatment was rest, ice packs and painkillers. A week later and things seemed to be back to normal – so back to work.

Our euphoria was short-lived. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, whilst walking along the beach with Lindsay, Spike suddenly started howling in pain. After a frantic phone call to her dad, Neil and Lindsay managed to get Spike home and arranged a hurried visit to the vet. X-rays were taken, which revealed a broken wrist, but there was something else showing and the vet wanted a second opinion. They were asked to return on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of February for the results. These proved to be a massive shock to us all. Spike had bone cancer and the only choices we had were amputation of his leg or having him put to sleep. We made the only choice possible and trusted that it was the right one.

He underwent surgery on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February and returned home on Tuesday afternoon. What happened then was remarkable!

Almost immediately, Bonzo took it upon himself, to look after Spike. When Spike stood up, Bonzo immediately positioned himself on Spike's left and a little behind the amputation site as if to say "If you overbalance, I'll break your fall."

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – 4am. Bonzo was barking the house down. Neil said he "shot out of bed and tore down the stairs" In his sleep, Spike had rolled onto his sore side and couldn't right himself and was whimpering. Neil gently turned him over onto his good side and resettled him. Bonzo checked his handiwork and reassured that his friend was once more comfortable, went back to bed – as did Neil.

The next few weeks brought steady improvement in Spike's recovery; but through it all, Bonzo maintained his position a little to the left and behind his friend. His latest help came on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We felt that Spike was ready to go back to work. I only have a small car and was worried that Spike might not manage to get into it; so suggested a dummy run to see how he'd cope.

He got into the car but wasn't sure about getting onto the back seat. Once again, Bonzo resolved the problem. He got behind Spike and gave him a gentle nudge onto the seat.

**SPIKE WENT BACK TO WORK ON MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

The welcome he received from his friends in the retirement home was fantastic and heart warming. The first time was just a short visit as walking slowly is more tiring at the moment. This will improve over time hopefully.

The most remarkable part of all this, was Bonzo's behaviour and how he took it upon himself to help Spike recover and adjust to the loss of his leg. Not only Therapets for people, but for each other.

We think we have the best dogs on the planet.....BUT THEN WE'RE BIASED!"

I am delighted to say that, in August, Spike is doing wonderfully well. Ed.

**Deborah Clark and Jake** visit Rawyards Nursing Home and to St Andrew's Hospice both in Airdrie. Deborah writes:-

“Jake is an 8 year old Golden Labrador with a personality so "laid back" that he is perfect for a role involving the elderly.

We visit St Andrew's Hospice every second Tuesday and Rawyards every third Wednesday. We are made most welcome at both locations with Jake now being well known to both patients and staff.

Rawyards is a home for the elderly with a secure ward for dementia patients. Jake is popular with both staff and his "regulars" and can be easily spoiled by his "friends" if not closely watched. He is a typical Labrador and would eat the home out of all available food if left to his own devices.

St Andrew's Hospice in Airdrie can be a difficult place to visit due to the nature of the illnesses catered for in such a place. However, it is not a place of gloom and doom but, rather a home where there are many "shining lights" of hope and contentment. There are variety of age groups here unlike Rawyards and Jake is equally gentle and giving to this group as he is to the elderly. It is a joy to see the calmness and release of frustrations in patients if only for the short time of our visits.”

At the beginning of the year **Sheila Mitchell**, of Oban, and **Therapet Rosie** began visiting the Eadar Glinn Care Home in Oban. The Unit Manager, wrote:-

“ I am writing to tell you how much the residents and Staff at Eadarr Glinn Care Home are enjoying the benefits of the Therapet Service.

Although the Therapet owner Mrs Sheila Mitchell and her dog Rosie have only been visiting us for a short time, there are clear signs of a positive nature from the residents who are interacting with Rosie.

Eadar Glinn is a care home for older people and many of the residents are frail with high levels of dependency therefore I have been impressed to witness the interaction between Rosie and the residents.

Mrs Mitchell’s professional manner and approach to the residents has also helped to make this initiative a success for us.

I will recommend the Therapet Service to my colleagues in the other care facilities in the area.”

Well done Sheila and Rosie!

**KIZZY** is owned by **Barbara Whiting** of Liff, by Dundee and visits the special unit at South Grange Care Home in Monifieth. Kizzy, a Working Sheepdog, is more than just a Therapet! This year at Crufts, and handled by Barabara’s daughter Christa, Kizzy was a member Dundee Canine Juniors which won the Junior Agility Class. Many congratulations!

## **THERAPET PUBLICITY**

In the Spring **Norma Murray**, our dedicated Representative for Tayside achieved some wonderful publicity which resulted in very many enquiries and a lot of new Therapets. STV news filmed Norma and volunteer Caroline Hippisley with Therapets Simba and Clova at work at Whitehills Community Hospital, Forfar. It was transmitted during the Six O'clock News and made a big impact. Other news organisations, including the BBC, became interested as a result.

Norma also featured in an excellent article in the Dundee Evening Telegraph in April.

This time last year I reported that the Irish Setter Club of Scotland would be featuring Therapet in their 2007 Year Book. The Book has arrived and the feature contains super articles by **Ron Fraser** of Aberdeen, **Mary Innes** of Fife and **Christine Borthwick** of Dumfries. Pictures were included of three Therapets at work: **Maeve**, owned by Bill & Ruth Findlay, **Rosie**, owned by Mary Innes and **Pepper** who is owned by Christine Borthwick.

**Anne Macdonald and Poppy** have also achieved some wonderful publicity and recognition for their Therapet work. In January the Scotsman featured them at work in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow. Then in April the Glasgow Evening Times in an article on the NHS Diamond Awards three pictures of Poppy were published. Anne and Poppy attended the Awards event at the Concert Hall in Glasgow on 5 July. Poppy received the 'Ruff Ruff Diamond Award' - Certificate of Recognition for outstanding contribution and commitment to the NHS. Well done Poppy

In Dumfriesshire **Maureen Hill** continues to obtain lots of publicity by attending a great number of shows and craft fairs. It is not only publicity as she raises a great deal of money for the Trust through the sale of her famous dog quilts and other goods that she and her band of helpers make.

News items about Therapets in newspapers, on radio and television is the best publicity we can get. If you are able to interest the media, in your area, about the Therapet Service please let Nick know and he will be able to supply you, and the media, with backup information.

## **TRUSTEES**

The Trust is fortunate to have a strong Board of Trustees and all are happy to be available to Members. I was delighted to hear that, following my retirement, the Trustees invited **Douglas Ruthven** to join them. Douglas is our very dedicated and hard working Representative for Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Mr George Leslie

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## **SPONSORED WALKS**

**“STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND”** – our annual sponsored two to three mile walk which is not only very enjoyable for those taking part but has become a main fundraiser. The walks are generally organised by our Area Representatives but in recent years a number of Therapet Volunteers have very kindly become involved. And we have the award to the organiser whose walk raises the most money and also the award for the individual who secures the largest amount of sponsorship!

A sponsorship form is enclosed – loads more here if you need them, or you could perhaps photocopy. You will see there is a space for those unable to walk but who would nevertheless like to make a donation. Each walker receives a lovely tartan rosette and every dog gets some goodies. The top fundraiser at each walkpoint is awarded a bumper size rosette. Some Clubs might like to arrange a “Sponsored Down”, or you might like to do a solo walk if there is no walk planned in your area? All contributions, believe me, are most welcome, no matter how small.

Tayside Representative **NORMA MURRAY** has arranged for a walk to be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at the Ranger Centre at Forfar Loch, starting at 2.00pm. I know that Norma has been in touch with members in Tayside and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join her.

Trustee, Area Representative for Glasgow and roving ambassador for the Trust, **JAMES MACDONALD**, is organising a walk in Queens Park, Glasgow on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. It will start at 2.00pm and everyone will meet up in the Pony Ring which is just inside the park at the entrance at the top of Victoria Road. If you live in the Glasgow area please give James your support, you will enjoy the afternoon out!

At a date still to be decided **NICK** and our Boxer **ZAK** will again do a solo walk at Machrihanish. As always they will be very pleased to receive your sponsorship if you are unable to participate in a walk yourself.

**If you would like to consider organising a sponsored walk in your area please let Nick know and he will help you with the correct procedures and supply you with all the necessary paper work and goodies.**

## **REPORT OF OUR SURVEY OF 51 THERAPETS FOR THE PRESENCE OF MRSA**

As reported in previous Bulletins we completed our sample survey of 10% of all Therapets for the possibility that they might have picked up MRSA during hospital visitations and become possible carriers.

The results of this survey were published in the Veterinary Record on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008. We are happy to say that we were able to report that all 51 Therapets tested were negative for MRSA. Results such as this will be very important when we are discussing with the managements of hospitals or homes whether it is safe for Therapets to visit.



## **MRSA contd**

However Therapet owners must not be complacent. MRSA is still an increasing problem in hospitals and homes and although healthy Therapets will be safe from picking up such infections we must do our best to make sure that they don't become carriers. As you will be aware we have recommended in our Therapet Health Protocol that we should use antiseptic wipes for the Therapet's face and ears, and maybe before we visit each hospital for the paws as well.

Recent press reports have been highlighting C. Diff. (Clostridium Difficile) As the big risk in hospital acquired infections (HAI). C. Diff. Is an unlikely cause of diarrhoea in the dog ( although its cousin C. Perfringens is) and if hospitals and homes have excellent hygiene protocols in place there should be little chance of C. Diff being passed on through Therapets.

As always each Therapet owner must be vigilant and while considering the enormous value of their visits to the patient each must ensure that their visit does not allow the possibility of carriage of infection.

*George Leslie*

## **REFORM OF THE DANGEROUS DOGS ACT**

You will all know that we campaigned vigorously against the stupid DDA passed by Westminster, in particular the principle accepted in the Act that certain breeds might be classified as dangerous.

Now Alex Neil MSP has raised the possibility of a Scottish Bill to reform the DDA. His initial proposal and the result of his consultation can be found on the Scottish Parliament website at the section on proposed Members Bills.

CCST has taken part in this consultation and have given Alex Neil support for his basic principle that it should be "deed not breed". In other word no dog should be ostracised because it happens to be a Rottweiler or Pit Bull but only if it acts "dangerously".

However there are still problems which as dog owners we should worry about.

How should we define in law a dog acting dangerously? If a dog bites a human are there any defences which could suggest that it is not a "dangerous dog" – e.g. if a dog is defending its owner or owner's property, if a human attempts to separate two fighting dogs, if a dog is suffering from a painful disease when it bites the human ? All opinions are welcome. Please let us know what you think.

When the Bill is eventually published we may need members to write to their local MSPs to lobby for changes.

## **REFORM OF THE DANGEROUS DOGS ACT contd**

Another example is that Alex Neil is proposing to make the new law apply on private property. This could create the problem that if your dog is in its garden and somebody enters your “private” property and is threatened or attacked by your dog then your dog might be classified as a Dangerous Dog. Let us know what you think. Your opinion matters.

*George Leslie*

## **CCST WEBSITE – [canineconcernscotland.org.uk](http://canineconcernscotland.org.uk)**

By the time you receive this Bulletin the information displayed on the website should be up-to-date. We are very grateful to Lynsey Ramsay for all the work she does in connection with the site. At present the Trustees are reviewing the site and are considering the possibility of bringing in some professional help to do some design work and generally assist Lynsey with a view to making the website even more effective. The Trustees will be coming to conclusions at their meeting in November. If you have any comments about the site as it stands at present, or what you would like to see included in the future, please let Nick know. I am sure that the Trustees would like to receive as much feedback as possible.

## **THANKS!**

Before closing, and on behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank you all – Committee Members, Area and Therapet Representatives, volunteers and, of course all of the great Therapets – for all the time, effort and dedication that you give to the Trust and the Therapet Scheme. Without you there would be no Trust and no Therapet!

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

**Marjorie Henley Price**

PS Please remember:-

- a) The Awards Lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> November
- b) Nominations for Therapet of the year to be in by 18<sup>th</sup> October
- c) “Stepping Out For Scotland”
- d) The Companion Dog Show on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009
- e) Renew your membership, if you have not already done so!

**AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

**Since the last bulletin Maureen Hill and Caroline McDermott have both moved house.**

The following are the contact details for all our Area Representatives:-

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