## **BULLETIN 75 - August 2012**

## Dear Members and Friends

As I start to write this in the second week of the Olympics the weather is fine and summer-like. In fact this extremity of Scotland has enjoyed better weather than most other parts of the country. For some of you I suspect that your dogs must have been growing web-feet!

The Trust continues to flourish – we are attending more events than ever before to publicise our work, especially the Therapet Service. Therapets are in great demand all over the country and the great news is that we have already registered over 100 new Therapets this year. This means lots of new members and volunteers to whom we extend the warmest of welcomes. More of our Therapets later but first here are the details of the **PRESENTATION AWARDS LUNCH** which this year will take place at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 1.15 pm. It is always a most enjoyable event at which we pay tribute to some very special dogs and equally special people. We hope that you will come along. An application form is enclosed which should be returned to me by 12<sup>th</sup> November at the latest. We have managed to keep the price at £15.00 per person.

At the lunch we present 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 – an application form is enclosed and we look forward to receiving lots of nominations. Please send your application to the office by 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**LONG SERVICE AWARDS** to those members who have given continuous service for twenty years or more, either as a Therapet Volunteer or in some other capacity such as a member of the Committee of Management.

## THERAPET OF THE YEAR 2012

This award allows the Trust to recognise the wonderful work carried out by our Therapets, and their owners, not just by the winner but by all the Therapets whether nominated or not. We are able to gain valuable publicity for the Therapet Service at the time the award is made. The Service is a great success story and we wish to build and develop it so that as many people in Scotland as possible can benefit from Therapet visits.

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, by 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Your Area Representative will be able to help you with the form.

Our <u>ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW</u> was drawn at the annual meeting of Trustees and Area Representatives which was held in Perth on 16<sup>th</sup> June and there were winners from all over Scotland. We are very grateful to everyone who donated prizes, sold tickets and bought tickets. As well as buying tickets many of you very kindly sent additional donations. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated.

# SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

It seems incredible but 2013 sees the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trust. So much has happened during the years and the Trust has been supported and served by some wonderful people – Patrons, Trustees, Committee Members, Members, Therapet Volunteers and Friends. The Trustees and Committee of Management are working on ideas of how best to celebrate the 25 year milestone. As we wish to include as many members as possible in the celebrations the intention is that we will arrange events in a number of regions in the country. Nothing has been fixed yet and so if you have any suggestions of how you would like to celebrate, with your Therapets, please do let me know. We hope to announce the plans in the January 2013 Bulletin.

# **MEMBERSHIPS**

As usual this is a gentle reminder to anyone who has not renewed so far this year. We do hope that you will renew, your support is so important to us. Our modest 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 active Therapet volunteers have their membership up-to-date.

## **MARJORIE HENLEY PRICE**

In the very brief April Bulletin I informed you that Marjorie died on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012 after a long period of failing health. The following obituary was published in "Dog World" and "Our Dogs" and The Herald carried a slightly edited version.



Mrs Marjorie Henley Price

THE WORLD of dogs was saddened to learn of the death, on April 15th. 2012, of Mrs Marjorie Henley Price the founder and Honorary Life President of the charity Canine Concern Scotland Trust.

For a number of years Marjorie was secretary of the Scottish Boxer Club and edited the club's newsletter. However she became increasingly concerned about the growing hostility in some quarters towards dogs. She was one of the earliest members of PRO Dogs and in due course became Chairman of the South of Scotland Branch, a Branch that became extremely successful. She was vigilant in her fight against the anti-dog publicity that prevailed in the 1980s. She developed a schools educational programme that was used throughout the UK.

Sadly all was not well within PRO Dogs and in December 1987 the chairmen and committees of seven branches resigned. However, Marjorie, and the team she had built, decided that the work for and on behalf of dogs should continue in Scotland and in April 1988 a new charitable trust, Canine Concern Scotland Trust, was created and the Therapet Service was established. She was appointed the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and also took on the role of Administrator. Marjorie continued her campaign putting forward the positive roles that dogs have in many areas of society, she advanced the need for responsible dog ownership and her schools educational campaign was a great success. She drafted all the Trust's leaflets and posters and wrote the script for the Trust's highly acclaimed video "Children & Dogs".

Marjorie Henley Price was born in Peckham and was brought up in Bexleyheath and Sutton, Surrey. She trained as a secretary, skills which she put to good use in later years when she became involved in the world of dogs.

As a child Marjorie suffered greatly from asthma and was kept away from dogs and other animals. It was not until the 1960s, when she met and subsequently married Nick, that the possibility of owning a dog arose. Nick's family owned a red Boxer dog named Punch and the agreement was that once Marjorie was able to stop work they would have a Boxer just like Punch. In the event they became owners of a brindle bitch named Holly, Trelgandorf Moonraker, whose father was Ch Marbleton Double-O-Seven. Marjorie became interested in showing and then breeding in a small way under the Caldarvan prefix. Best known was Holly's son Caldarvan Bold Baron who had his moments in the show ring!

Marjorie was someone to whom the media, especially television and radio, referred when issues relating to dogs were raised. She was interviewed regularly and took part in phone-in programmes. She used her writing skills to great effect, both in letters to the press and in the preparation of Canine Concern's twice yearly Bulletin to members.

In 1997 Marjorie was instrumental in securing significant funding from the National Lottery Charities Board which enabled the Trust to establish and equip an office and to employ an administrator to take on that part of Marjorie's work.

In 2004 Marjorie wrote, and self published, a delightful book "Sprigs of Holly" in which she recounts her life working with and for dogs. Echoing her determination and 'can do' approach to everything the book chronicles her love affair with the Boxer breed and from the very pages shines her positive approach which in those preinternet days was a momentous task. The book also shows that her dedication to the task in hand was not stinted by the practical difficulties which beset the charity out of which CCST was born. Her words, and her deeds, are a timely reminder to all who love dogs that though we still have our detractors the companionship we enjoy together is something which should be respected, cherished and passed on to others.

Her failing health made her decide to retire as a Trustee in 2008 after twenty years of dedicated service to Canine Concern and even longer service to dogs in general. On her retirement she was made Honorary Life President. Her legacy is a financially sound and very active Canine Concern Scotland Trust, which through its Therapet Service brings much happiness to many thousands of people throughout Scotland and which will continue to argue that responsibly owned dogs have an important place in

society. She left a very strong board of Trustees which is now chaired by retired veterinary surgeon George Leslie. The board includes members with a wide range of canine interests and experience. In particular Marjorie's protégé, James Macdonald, who is carrying on her educational and publicity work to great effect.

Marjorie's husband, Nick, who has been the Secretary/Treasurer since the Trust was formed, continues in this role.

#### **Bill Moores**

In his column in "Dog World" Simon Parsons wrote:-

## "Remembering Marjorie

I was saddened to hear of the death of one of my heroines in the world of dogs, Marjorie Henley Price, after a long period of ill-health.

Marjorie was the inspiration behind the foundation of Canine Concern Scotland Trust back in 1988, having previously been involved with Pro Dogs after she, like so many others, became worried about the ever increasing hostility towards dogs and dog owners.

For the next 20 years she served as chairman of trustees of CCST and its Therapet service. She had an enormous capacity for hard work and her charm and enthusiasm were infectious. She had the knack for involving dog-loving Scottish celebrities in the work of "her" charity and an instinctive flair for publicity.

I hope Scots people appreciate all she, and her co-volunteers at CCST, have done to make the dog's image far more acceptable than it would undoubtedly otherwise have been."

**Reflections by James Macdonald** given at the service for Marjorie in St Kiaran's Episcopal Church in Campbeltown:-

I first met a remarkable lady called Marjorie Henley Price around 1986-7 when my dog Bramble was registered to do visiting work with Pro Dogs as Marjorie was the contact for them and ran their service in Scotland.

Marjorie was quite an imposing person and had quite a unique appearance (hair wise)... did it ever move?... was it real... the answer to both questions was yes..... And I believe she may have had shares in a well known hair spray!

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April1988 she created Canine Concern Scotland Trust and the Trust is now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year with Marjorie its Honorary Life President....

I really got to know Marjorie when the Scottish Kennel Club moved their Championship show briefly to Glasgow at Bellahouston Park as it was near to where I stayed and mentioned I would come along and help put the Canine Concern Scotland Trust Tent up and help out on the day...That was truly the start of a wonderful friendship and how Nick managed to pass on to me the ritual of this twice annual event of fund raising at SKC shows...

Over those years Marjorie would attend the SKC shows in May & August meeting all her friends in the dog world and meeting new Therapet volunteers who sought her out for a chat and advice.... She knew all their names..... or seemed too..... Marjorie once told me .... Listen to them and something they will say will trigger who they are or what kind of dog they have... continuing on this PR work at SKC now... I smile when the same thing happens to me and I apply Marjorie's method...

Lots of her friends would seek out the Canine Concern tent which is now called the mini marquee (a posh blue & white tent) for Marjorie's hospitality tipple of sherry which always accompanied her on these outings... Marjorie I always thought had a wicked sense of humour and this came out in the watching games that we played at SKC when the weather was poor..... Nick it has to be said wondered what we were doing giving scores out of ten... when he found out did not approve.... Some years later he and I were carrying out PR work at an event and he remarked that that is surely at ten... I laughed and said maybe a 10+ in Marjorie's book...

Marjorie is responsible for me being here today as she was the person who saw something in me which eventually led to my role as Trustee in the trust she created all those years ago and I am forever grateful to her for that.

Often I would get phone calls from her to do interviews on the trust's behalf after she had convinced the radio or TV crew not to journey up to Machrihanish to talk to her and see her surrounded by her own Boxer dogs which were sure to be shining examples of visiting Therapets...Marjorie was never really a lady to be turned down and was very skilled at getting what she wanted... but always in a nice way!!!

Latterly when Marjorie ended up in the Southern General hospital after breaking her hip.... Flying I might add in a helicopter from Machrihanish.... my visits with her were full of things that the Trust had got involved in and I found out more about her own personal back ground where she grew up, what her father did and how she met Nick.... Along with some of the things that she and her friend Brenda got up too in their working lives...

I got to know bits and pieces of Marjorie's life.... A full and eventful one which led her to putting some of them into her book which I am sure many of you have read...

When Marjorie joined Pro Dogs one of the many things she pioneered and introduced was the Educational side of dog ownership through the School Visiting Service... Sometimes on these early visits things did not go as planned and one such visit Marjorie managed to get the attention of the police... Primarily because she was in a one way street – on the pavement and facing the wrong way... Although now modernised into DVD format it still has the core elements that she laid down all those years ago and a part of the Trust's work that is very dear to me.

Marjorie has always worked tirelessly in the interests of dogs, the Trust and particularly the Therapet Service. As one of my co-trustees, who cannot be here today, has written following Marjorie's death. "Marjorie's remarkable contribution to the canine world and to all society was enormous and of lasting value. We owe her endless gratitude."

## **THERAPETS**

Since the January Bulletin we have learned of the deaths of a number of our wonderful Therapets. First and foremost Therapets are much loved pets and when they die they leave a void in the lives of their owners. Our sympathies go out to all of you who have lost your Therapets and at the same time we send our sincere thanks for sharing them with so many people.

- "Cora" Linda & John Young's Collie Cross
- "Coral" Adrene Herr's Chihuahua
- "Jasper" Helen Macdonald's Siamese Cat
- "Kaylee" Robert Muir's Golden Retriever
- "Leo" Jemima Magna's Labrador
- "Meg" Susan Ross' Border Collie
- "Missi" Caroline McDermott's Shetland Sheepdog
- "Rosie" Mavis Lee's Collie Cross
- "Rosie" Hilda Stephenson's Irish Setter
- "Shadow" Lynne Maclure's Cross Breed

I hope that I have not missed anyone but if I have please do let me know.

# THERAPET NEWS

On this occasion I am starting with a letter from a lady in Fife:-

"Please accept this small donation to your very worthy charity. I find myself availing myself of your services, and I can't tell you how wonderful it is. I hope to enjoy it for a while yet.

Yours most sincerely."

## From Hilda Stephenson in Perthshire:-

"**Kyla** (an Irish Setter) is blossoming as a Therapet. She has really come out of her shell at Ashley House. She decided the lady with the teddy bear needed a big cuddle last Thursday and, before I could blink, she was in her lap with paws on her shoulders, snuggling in. Not quite 2correct" I know but she wasn't rough and I'll be more vigilant in future – but it was one of the more robust, cheerful ladies, though she is sometimes a bit melancholy, and she was on Thursday, but boy did she love that cuddle.. The other ladies were all laughing as she was chuckling and hugging Kyla and saying "Oh you love ME best, don't you brautiful girl!

One of the nicest moments on Thursday was a blind lady, who used to have Irish Setters, who was in the main lounge for the first time since we've been visiting. Up till now, we have seen her in the little private lounge and Kyla had been a bit wary of the wheelchair plonked in the middle of the floor. Bur, on this occasion, the wheelchair was pushed back in line with the other ladies ordinary chairs. So Kyla was much more at ease and rested her head on the lady's lap and the lady was doing all those real "dog person" strokes and massage-y bits that we do and then buried her head in Kyla's neck with a look of such happiness on her face — it was so touching."

## Fiona Wilcock writes:

"I live in the east end of Glasgow with my Lurcher bitch Saffi. She is very gentle and affectionate and together we visit patients in the local psychiatric hospital who have dementia and Alzheimers. I always ensure that Saffie does her "needs" before we enter the hospital. As soon as she recognises the hospital doors she goes towards them with her tail wagging and in this way I know how much she enjoys her visits.

When we enter the patients' lounge, Saffi always receives a warm welcome from both staff and patients. We go to each patient and its as if Saffi senses that something is not quite right and she places her head in each lap.

I usually ask each patient if they remember having dogs when they were younger and, even if they're unable to remember a breed or name, they love talking of their own dogs.

Often there is a patient obsessively pacing the corridor and a member of staff will ask me to introduce Saffi to the patients to try to calm them. We gladly do that and it usually has a good result.

It is very warm in the hospital so I always give Saffi plenty to drink. She lets me know when she has had enough of "working" by lying down, stretching out and generally making herself at home in the patients' lounge. So I know she is very relaxed being there.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a Therapet visitor. The local representative for Therapet volunteers is James Macdonald and his support has been invaluable."

From Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae Shona Morris sends the following:-

"My toy poodles, **Alfie and Lewis**, are going from strength to strength with their Therapet visits. We have had a breakthrough with a couple of the young men at the home in Millport for adults with special needs. As they have got to know the dogs, they have gone from a fear of dogs to actually stroking them, and one of the lads invited them to sit on the chair with him! It is great to see them grow in confidence and self esteem. Some of the young women have been learning to give commands and treats to the dogs and they love to see them dancing!

At the home we visit in Largs, the dogs have been allowed into rooms as well as the main lounge areas. Some of the residents become unusually animated and talkative when the dogs are around!

I was delighted when the Daily Mail printed my letter and photograph of Alfie and Lewis, as this has given some more publicity to the Charity."

One of the great things about the Therapet Service is the relationships that are built up between our Volunteers, their Therapets and the people that they visit. The following exchange of letters is an example!

# From:- Rory Guest, Westie, Therapet No 1654. November 2011 To: Residents, Staff & Visitors, Wards 1 & 2, Bo'ness Hospital.

#### Dear All

I just wanted to let you know that I'm missing you all (and I don't mean just the biscuits!). Unfortunately I've been unwell and had a short stay in hospital myself. Mum says she was worried but I must admit I quite enjoyed it as I had a lovely nurse come to see me every hour — want more could a dog want?! (Well possibly a nurse with a biscuit but I shouldn't be greedy!)

I'm having problems with compression of the spinal cord in my neck which meant I was unable to walk for a short while. Now I'm on a physio programme which mum says is just impossible to follow. I'm only allowed for 5 minute walks a day but I really don't think that's necessary and I give mum my best "hard done by" look when we have to turn around to go home. Apparently I'm meant to rest otherwise and Mum makes some awfully funny noises when I take a fancy to jumping on and off the sofa.

This physio stuff is set to drag on for a while yet but I am hoping that I may be able you come to see you at Christmas (if all goes well mum says). Meanwhile, I hope you are all taking good care of yourselves and not jumping off any sofas! Love, Rory

# From: Patients & Staff, Bo'ness Hospital, Wards 1 & 2. To: Rory

# Dear Rory

Thank you for your lovely letter letting us know why you haven't been able to visit recently. We have missed you but just thought you were maybe having a wee rest due to you hectic visiting lifestyle. We all need a wee holiday sometime you know. But don't worry, we have been saving your biscuits and there is quite a bundle waiting for you. Looks like you may have to take some home.

We have lots of new people for you to meet. Don't think there's much chance of you getting on the sofa here either as usually the staff are sitting on them – maybe you could sort that out for us!

The physio stuff sounds a bit boring but you should always do what your mum says – mum knows best, as they say. Wee, maybe not always!

Take care of yourself and your mum and we'll see you soon. Lots of Love, Patients and Staff.

**Jacqui Guest** tells me that "Rory is fully recovered, thanks to the good works of the University of Glasgow Small Animal Hospital, and we're back to normal with our visits."

## THERAPET PUBLICITY

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

Our website <u>www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk</u> is constantly being updated by. You will see that there is now a Press Reports section. Please send in your news items so that James can include them. We have had some super coverage in recent months.

## **EXPENSES**

Please remember that Therapet Volunteers are able to claim travel expenses. As we try to place Volunteers as close to their own homes as possible hopefully expenses are kept to a minimum. However there is one aspect that has been brought to my attention and this relates to parking charges, levied by hospitals, which can be considerable can mount up for regular visitors. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you are suffering these charges, or if you are incurring travel expenses, and I will be pleased to send you an expenses claim form. We certainly do not wish our volunteers to be constrained in their visiting by travel costs.

# **LITERATURE**

Please let me know if you need some copies of our leaflets and posters to help publicise the work of the Trust and the Therapet Service in particular. At present we have three leaflets about the Therapet Service "My Therapet" and "The Therapet Service" and "Therapet Working In The Clinical World".

## AREA & THERAPET REPRESENTATIVES

As always we are eternally grateful to our Area and Therapet Representatives who do such great work in assessing potential Therapets and for placing newly registered Therapets. Many also give talks to interested groups in their areas and also engage in valuable fund raising.

Please keep sending in your accounts of your Therapet visiting. Also please send me pictures of your Therapets so that they can be put on the website.

Finally, I was really touched by the very many letters and cards I received following Marjorie's death and I would like to take this opportunity of saying a sincere thank you to everyone who wrote so kindly.

With best wishes Yours sincerely

## **Nick Henley Price**

PS Please remember:-

- a) The Awards Lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> November
- b) Nominations for Therapet of the Year to be in by 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- c) Renew your membership, if you have not already done so!

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