

BULLETIN 60 – August 2007

Dear Members and Friends

Already we are fast approaching Autumn. For me, unfortunately, walking is still very slow, but we get there, wherever “there” may be! Nick, as always, does a great job as head cook, bottle washer and most of the CCST work, although I do keep a beady eye on things. A big vote of thanks to him and all our good friends who lend a hand, especially James Macdonald who lends two!! So lets start with:-

The Presentation Awards Luncheon – so you can put it in your diaries straight away! As always it looks like a date not to be missed and it will take place at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate on Sunday 18th November 2007 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 12th November at the latest. The price is £15.00 per person, just a little more than last year.

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. **An application form is enclosed, which please complete and send in to Nick by 15th 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!

The Annual Companion Dog Show had to be cancelled due to terrible weather. We were very sad about this but it is doubtful if many people would have wanted to stand about in heavy rain all afternoon with dripping wet dogs. It was very sad for Trustee and Show Manager John Stead and with his hard working team all of whom put in a tremendous amount of advance preparation for the day. 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. Lets hope for better luck next year – I might even get there myself!

Another casualty of the weather was the **Annual Prize Draw**, which is always drawn at the Companion Dog Show, and which is supported so generously by so many of you. Here I would like to thank everyone who sent donations for the show and included extra money for the tickets. It was decided to make the draw at the next occasion when a number of members were gathered together. This 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 21st July 2007. The draw was made by guest speaker Dr Lynne MacDonald about whom more later. The lucky winners were:-

| | |
|--|---|
| Radio Cassette & CD Player:- £50.00:- | Tam Harvey of the Glasgow area Sheena Kelman of Grantown-on-Spey |
| Oddbins Voucher:- | Irene Horsburgh of Cupar |
| Book Token:- | Elizabeth Maxwell of Dumfries |
| Cuddly Toy:- | Rita Crombie of Edinburgh |
| Gift Voucher:- | Mrs E Sproat of Dumfries |
| CD: | Fay Lennox of Glasgow |
| Victoria Wine Voucher:- | Karen Brennan of Glasgow |
| Marks & Spencer Voucher:- | Anne Macdonald of Neilston |
| Gift Voucher:- | Greer Abendroth of Campbeltown |
| Signed Book:- | Marion Grant of Glasgow |
| Bottle of Whisky:- | Pat Bennet of Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire |

The meeting in Perth was a great success. Each year it provides a super 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 Nick gave a review of CCST, its structure and finances, and how it operates. This was followed by an inspiring talk by Maureen Hill from Dumfries who was awarded Therapet Representative of the Year in 2006. In addition to organising all the Therapets in her area Maureen and helpers do a tremendous amount of fund raising for the Trust at many shows and other events in the Dumfries area. Her talk then led to a wide ranging, and valuable, discussion on the Therapet Scheme. Trustee George Leslie led a fascinating and informative session on Therapet Health and in particular MRSA and the research that was carried out earlier in the year and about which more later. Trustee and Area Representative for Glasgow, James Macdonald, then talked about the educational work carried out by the Trust with an emphasis on school visits. After lunch the afternoon was given over to the Therapet Scheme and the work being carried out assisting health professionals with children who have a fear of dogs. Firstly Anne Macdonald gave a fascinating talk about her experiences with Therapet Eilidh from the volunteer's point of view and then Dr Lynne MacDonald (no relation!) a Psychologist working in Glasgow discussed the subject from the professional's point of view.

New Leaflets – Two of our leaflets “My Therapet” and “The Therapet Service” have been updated and are now in colour and very eye catching they are too! The photographs included in the leaflets are all of Therapets of the Year. The cost of production has been met in part by a generous grant received last year from The Kennel Club Charitable Trust and this has been noted on the leaflets. If you would like a small supply of each or either of the leaflets, to publicise THERAPET please let Nick know. In due course, as supplies of them reduce, we hope to produce other of our leaflets, such as our “Children and Dogs” leaflet, in colour.

THERAPET

Sadly, some of our wonderful Therapets are no longer with us. We are grateful for all their hard work as Therapets and I know that all of you who have lost dearly loved pets will have wonderful memories of them. Among the Therapets who have died in recent months were:-

Dr & Mrs Milne’s Border Collie “Morag”
Mrs Christine Grant’s Collie “Lady”
Mrs Inez Wood’s Sheltie “Ghillie”
Mrs Andrene Kerr’s Chihuahua “Poppy”
Mrs Caroline McDermott’s Sheltie “Storm”
Miss Norma Lutas’ Standard Poodle “Ebony”
Mrs Margaret Smith’s Labrador “Witney”

Our sincere sympathies to you all.

Therapet News – we are delighted to welcome a lot more volunteers and their newly registered Therapets and wish you all well in your visiting. It is always a great pleasure to receive news of how our volunteers and their Therapets are getting on so keep writing!

Jo Doake writes:-

“Charlie and I have been visiting Liberton Hospital for over 6 months now. We go up in the lift to the top floor with its wide views over Edinburgh. Wards 7 and 8 are used for elderly patients many of whom will be in hospital for long periods of time.

Today, Burns Night, was one of our visits and we are now recognising quite a few folk. If I can’t quite recall their names they are printed clearly above the bed head! Some remember Charlie’s name and are so keen to see him. As a three year old lively Collie he could be boisterous but for some reason he knows to be calm and laps up all the attention, not to mention the tit bits. One lady even keeps a bag of Schmackos for him and the other doggy visitor.

Every few weeks a young friend who has MS comes in for respite. She adores the dog and visits from Charlie are one of the highlights of her stay at Liberton, although I am sure the staff are all lovely too! From being a rescued dog himself it’s very nice that he can give something back to humans in need (and of course I get a lot out of our visits).

Therapet News contd

From **Anne Horscroft**:-

“TESS, our Golden Retriever, has now started visiting the Astley Ainslie Hospital in Edinburgh and is proving popular with staff and patients! Although only 19 months old, Tess is very calm and gentle with the patients, mostly very elderly ladies, and happily lies down at their feet after an initial welcome. She seems to inspire the patients to talk about their own pets from the past and provides a welcome distraction in their day. We visit an orthopaedic ward and a lot of patients are waiting to go into nursing homes as they can no longer care for themselves, so many of them are feeling pretty sad and vulnerable. We are getting to know the long-term patients – and to hearing the same stories each week!

I’ve enclosed a cheque to cover the cost of a Therapet coat for Tess and a sky blue polo shirt for me. My seven year old son has to give a five minute talk to his class at school and he has chosen to talk about Tess and her new job, so we both have to attend in uniform. Tess is very popular at school and is good with children, so we hope that this is all good preparation for visiting the Sick Kids Hospital in the future.”

From Aberdeen **Lynn Moir** writes:-

“I am writing to tell you how Lenny (Pug) and myself are getting on with our visits. We are visiting East Maryfield fortnightly and Lenny is very well received! He is an absolutely super “Therapet”, he can’t wait to get in the building and has time for everyone. A good number of the residents enjoy seeing him and the staff are lovely.

I had a call from Clare Copland to see if I was interested in visiting Autism Initiative in Bridge of Don and we have had our first (successful) visit there and have arranged our next one.

We are doing just enough visiting that keeps myself, Lenny and the residents happy and we are both enjoying it.”

Dawn Gordon who lives in Peebles has written:-

“I have been visiting a thirteen year old boy with autism, with Barney my ten year old Cocker Spaniel, for over a year now. The boy’s mum heard that I did Therapet and phoned to see if we could help as he was terrified of all dogs and jumped on whoever he was with whenever a dog came near him. Obviously this was a problem as he is not a small boy any more. At first we could only stand at the living room door of his house and very slowly, and making sure we visited every week, we can now go in the room where Barney can now sit beside the boy and his mum, get patted, give a paw and of course be given a biscuit. We then head off to a nearby park where the boy will take Barney on the lead and is not as bothered when other dogs approach.

This has been a long but very rewarding journey for us all which will have to continue as the boy needs a regular routine.

I would also like to thank you and your team for all your hard work running Therapet which has brought so much pleasure to myself, Barney and the people we visit.”

Therapet News contd

Lesley Good, also of Aberdeen says:-

“Pleased to say that Paddy is proving to be a wonderful Therapet. Despite all his young exuberance he is so gentle when he does his visits. I have been quite taken aback at how quickly he has taken to his “job”.”

Anne Stuart and Sheltie “Thruppence” live in Fife and Anne writes:-

“Thruppence continues her visiting to Marie Curie and made £55 funds for them by selling calendars with her picture on them!!

Her visiting at the Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline began when she was allowed to visit a special friend and I continued visits when the friend left – other staff saw her so now she visits seven different areas in all. She has been given her own identification tag, and I wear hers over mine because her picture is the best one!! Hospital visiting I’ve been used to in my working life, so I love seeing patients responding when visited.

I do chaplaincy at a school for profoundly handicapped children. Thruppence has on occasions visited the school “by request” to be part of a class’s environment studies or even a maths lesson!! She doesn’t go in regularly but there is an understanding that because they know she is always with me, they can request a visit when suitable for the children.”

I am sure that you will all agree that these extracts demonstrate not only the wonderful work that our Therapets do but also the dedication of our volunteers who give so freely of their time. Thank you to all our members all over Scotland for what you are doing and the happiness that you bring to so many people by participating in Therapet. We are often asked how many people benefit from the Therapet service. It is difficult to estimate but given that we have over 500 Therapets currently registered the answer must be many thousands.

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.

SPONSORED WALKS contd

Already this year **MAUREEN HILL** has organised a walk in Dumfries which was extremely well supported and which raised the really magnificent total of £1,082.50. Thank you Maureen for arranging such a successful event and thank you to everyone who took part or made donations.

Tayside Representative **NORMA MURRAY** has arranged for a walk to be held at **Forfar Loch on Sunday 16th September 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 30th September**. 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 puppy **ZAK** will do a solo walk along the wonderful Machrihanish Bay which is five miles of glorious sand. Whilst I am sure that Zak will be up for the full length and back I am not sure that Nick will be quite so enthusiastic! I expect that that there will be a compromise on half way! In any event they would appreciate as much sponsorship as possible.

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 goodies.

THE THERAPET OF THE YEAR 2007

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.

NEW WEBSITE

Visit our new website at www.canineconcernscotland.org

TRUSTEES

The Trust is fortunate to have a strong Board of Trustees and all are happy to be available to Members. I am contactable at the office and the contact details for my six colleagues are:-

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Mr George Leslie 01560 600246 MACTALLA3@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 01436 675381 jam.stead@ukgateway.net | Dr Valerie Marrian 01738 621018 ValMarrian1@aol.com |

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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

Ayrshire

Mrs Margaret Davidson, 18 Louden St., Mauchline, KA5 5BT.

Tel: 01290 550 158

Badenoch & Strathspey

Mrs Vivien Moen, Pen Dinas, South Street, Grantown-on-Spey, PH26 3JA

Tel 01479 872589

Borders

Mrs Caroline McDermott, Barnfield, 25 Ladhope Drive, Galashiels TD1 2BL

Tel 01896 752069 e-mail caro.mcdermott@btopenworld.com

Dumfries

Mrs Maureen Hill, The Knowe, Georgetown Village, DG1 4QP.

Tel: 01387 253 490 e-mail: ian.mo@virgin.net

Edinburgh & Lothians

Mr Douglas Ruthven, 5 Frogston Grove, Edinburgh, EH10 7AG.

Tel: 0131 445 3678 e-mail: douglasruthven@blueyonder.co.uk

Fife

Mrs Ann Hughes, Chy-Kembro, Craigend Farm Cottages, Kinglassie, Lochgelly KY5 0UE

Tel: 01592 882178 e-mail: clanvineshelties@tiscali.co.uk

Fort William

Miss Irene Alderson, Monadhliath, Mossgiel, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EX.

Tel: 01397 712 482 e-mail: Irene.alderson@tiscali.co.uk

Glasgow & Strathclyde

Mrs Jean Connor, 43 Easter Wood Crescent, Viewpark, Uddingston, G715NX

Tel: 01698 329 980 e-mail: INCHLEE@blueyonder.co.uk

Mr James Macdonald, 18 Mannering Rd., Shawlands, G41 3SW.

Tel: 0141 632 4893 e-mail: James@bramlynn.freeserve.co.uk

Mrs Susan Ross, 9 Macleod Crescent, Helensburgh, G84 9QX.

Tel: 01436 678 712 e-mail: susanross@tiscali.co.uk

Moray

Mrs Maureen Thomson, South Lodge, Linkwood Rd., Elgin.

Tel: 01343 549 760 e-mail: Hollythom@aol.com

STIRLINGSHIRE

Mrs Lynsey Thomson, 21 Culbowie Crescent, Buchlyvie, Stirlingshire FK8 3NH

Tel: 01360 850078 e-mail: lynsey.wybar@virgin.net

TAYSIDE

Mrs Norma Murray, 5 Gordon Place, Friockheim, Angus, DD11 4SS.

Tel: 01241 828 451 e-mail: Friockheim1@homecall.co.uk

ABERDEEN THERAPET REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Clare Copland, 8 Springdale Crescent, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9FG

Tel: 01224 861049 E-Mail: clarecopland@ukgateway.net

Mrs Linda Macdonald, "Bogfechil", Bridge of Muchalls, Stonehaven AB39 3RR

Tel: 01569 731244

Mr Bruce McKenzie, 96 Kingsgate, Aberdeen AB15 4EP

Tel: 01224 313811 E-mail: bruce-@tiscali.co.uk

Mr Hamish Munro, 37 Springfield Avenue, Aberdeen AB15 8JJ

Tel: 01224 319774

Mrs Inez Wood, 1 Glen Drive, Dyce, Aberdeenshire AB21 7EN

Tel: 01224 722543

Mrs Diane Wood, 15 Benview Gardens, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire AB51 0FY

Tel 01651 872953 E-mail: DianeASW@aol.com

MRSA – Trustee George Leslie writes

“It was at meetings of the Area Representatives that discussions arose of the problems which might arise if Therapets came into contact with MRSA. MRSA as many of you will know stands for Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. This is a highly dangerous form of the Staph. Aureus bacterium which is extremely resistant to the majority of antibiotics. It is primarily a germ which infects humans particularly those whose resistance is low either because of disease, old age or because of certain types therapies received in hospitals. On occasions MRSA can cause very serious disease.

Many humans can carry MRSA without suffering any form of ill health, but of course they can pass it on to other humans whose resistance is low. Our discussion at the Area Reps meeting centred on whether there was a danger of serious MRSA infection in dogs, and also whether dogs (especially Therapets) might become healthy carriers who could pass the MRSA germ onto other humans.

The common form of Staph. in dogs is Staphylococcus Intermedius, and we have now a number of reports of dogs with MRSI infection. Staph Aureus, however, does occur as a form of infection in some dogs so MRSA is always a possibility. There have been a number of reports of MRSA associated with dogs. In one case in a veterinary hospital it was found that 17% of the staff, and 9% of the canine patients were carrying MRSA. Other reports have detailed cases of MRSA being passed back and forward between humans and dogs, and in one case of MRSA being carried by a PAT dog.

It was against this background that the Trustees decided to carry out a survey of 51 Therapets to check whether any might be carriers of MRSA. The results as you see from the enclosed report are encouraging, but we must be vigilant. Therapets visiting chronically ill patients could easily become infected seriously with MRSA, or more likely could act as a transient carrier of the germ. The former situation is more likely if the Therapet is unwell and therefore resistance is lower, and the latter if we are not careful with our bio-security measures. These points are well covered in the Therapet Health Protocol, and I would urge all Therapet owners to stick closely to that Protocol as much as they can.”

The next Bulletin will be due out at the end of January. In the meantime my best wishes for the Autumn and a safe Winter.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Trustees

