

## BULLETIN 57 – August 2006

Dear Members and Friends

They say that lightning never strikes twice but unfortunately car accidents do! Nick and I had a very bad experience in July when an agricultural vehicle suddenly decided to turn into our path without warning. The car was damaged beyond repair and Nick was shaken and stirred but otherwise reasonably OK. I broke a bone in my hand and had tremendous bruising from the seat belts and my back is still in considerable discomfort. Worst of all Josh, a beautiful three and a half year old Boxer who had come to live with us just a few weeks before, suffered tremendous injury and had to be put to sleep. As you can imagine it has left us distraught.....

There is a lot to cover in this Bulletin, so here goes!

**PRESENTATION AWARDS LUNCHEON** – will again take place at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at 1.15pm and at which we shall present our annual awards. We hope that you will be able to come along. A lunch application form is enclosed which please complete and return to Nick by 5<sup>th</sup> November if possible. The price of the lunch (starter, main course and coffee) is £13.00. It is always a most enjoyable event.

The main object of the lunch is to make our annual awards and this year we have another new award. This is in memory of Matty who used to do her solo sponsored walks along Machrihanish Bay each year. The award is to the individual who raises the most money at the sponsored events each year.

The other awards 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 14th 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.

**“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. Badges for all children taking part. Top fundraiser at each walkpoint is awarded a bumper size really super-duper rosette which is really worth having. Some Clubs prefer to do 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.

**James Macdonald’s walk will be in Queens Park Glasow on Sunday 1 October starting at 2.00pm. Meet in the Pony Ring.**

As yet other dates and locations have not been fixed but once decided upon I will write with full details.

### **COMPANION DOG SHOW**

Despite my best efforts I failed to make this year’s show in Queens Park, Glasgow on 4<sup>th</sup> June. I was really sorry that I was unable to make it and meet up with so many very good friends, old and new. The show was once again a great success and the many people who were there had a super day out. The weather was very kind, the show ran like clockwork and, combined with the Annual Prize Draw, it was a financial success. Every year I sing the praises of Show Secretary & Manager and Trustee **JOHN STEAD** and the Committee of Management, for their detailed planning and enthusiastic implementation and at the risk of repeating myself I do so again this year – thank you all. It must be one of the happiest dog shows in the world.!!

This year the pedigree judge was **SUE DYKES** from Eaglesham and by all accounts did an excellent job with a large entry. She made a beautiful Golden Retriever called **JUDE** Best in Show. Jude is owned by Anne McAleese. **SHEILA THOMSON** gave a most informative commentary on the pedigree classes.

An aim of the Show is to attract the pet owning public and we always have people come with their dogs who have never been to a dog show before. This year was no exception! A lady with a very smart Shar Pei was standing fifth in a pedigree class when her mobile ‘phone rang. The lady explained to the caller that she had taken her dog for a walk in the park and had got caught up in “some sort of dog show” and would have to ‘phone back!

There was a good entry in the Road Safety Obedience Classes and our thanks go out to the Judges and Stewards who so readily give up their time each year to make this part of the show such a success and such an attraction. It is great for the public to see such well trained dogs.

Throughout the day those wonderful members of the **KIRKINTILLOCH DOG TRAINING CLUB** were giving agility demonstrations and helping members of the public and their dogs to have a go – and very many people did! The Club also put on a demonstration of Fly Ball which is great fun for dogs and humans alike.

There was also our usual Therapet Parade which is a great opportunity to publicise the value of the Therapet Scheme. This year Therapets from as far afield as Aberdeen and Dumfries were in attendance and we thank all the Therapets and their owners for joining the parade.

Finally there were the novelty classes judged by an array of judges some of whom were experiencing this terrifying role for the first time!

Our thanks go to Patron **ROSEMARY LONG** who spent many hours at the show and was worked very hard giving a commentary on the Therapet Parade and judging some of the novelty classes. **BAILIE ALLAN STEWART** represented the Lord Provost and he spent longer at the show than he had expected! He made many of the presentations to the winners of the various classes and welcomed all of the Volunteers and their Therapets in the Therapet Parade.

By all accounts it was great day!

### **PRIZE DRAW WINNERS**

The lucky winners in this years draw were:-

Radio, Cassette, CD Player – Mrs Grace Wilson of Menstrie

£50 – Ms Ann Gibson of Glasgow

Framed Picture – Dr Iain Jamieson of Glasgow

Brooch – Mr David Bamford of Lenzie

Clock Radio – Also Mr Bamford

Cuddly Toy – Ms Sheila McNicol of Glasgow

Toaster – M Anderson of Kirkintilloch

Sweatshirt - Mr & Mrs Mitchell of Paisley

Oddbins Voucher – T Noonan of Glasgow

Book Voucher – E Pope of Glasgow

Signed Book – S Border of Glasgow

Boots Voucher – Cameron Connor of Uddingston

M&S Voucher – E Pope of Glasgow

W H Smith Voucher – Mr Munro of Glasgow

CD – Mr Jeff Miller of Clarkston

M&S Voucher – Mr Alan Buchanan of Glasgow

### **THE THERAPET SCHEME**

The Therapet Scheme goes from strength to strength.

### **NHS Lothian**

For many months Edinburgh and Lothians Representative **DOUGLAS RUTHVEN** has been in discussion with NHS Lothian and this has culminated in a formal agreement under which we are to provide Therapets to all the hospitals and clinics within NHS Lothian – University Hospitals Division which include Liberton Hospital, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, St Johns Hospital, Livingston, The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, The Royal Victoria Hospital, The Western General Hospital and The Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion. We are delighted with this agreement and congratulate Douglas for all his hard work. With this commitment we have a continuing need for more volunteers coming forward with prospective Therapets. If you know of anyone who would be interested please contact Douglas on 0131 445 3678 or Nick in the office.

### **Prison Visiting**

In recent months John and Catherine Waters have commenced very regular visits to Cornton Vale in Stirling with their Bullmastiffs Kira and Hogan. These have proved to be extremely successful. Mr Alan Hamilton, Activities, Youth and Restorative Project Manager at the prison recently wrote:-

“Just to let you know that we are getting excellent service from Mr & Mrs Waters. They visit the jail here at Cornton Vale regularly and the prisoners look forward to the visits. Today the dogs seemed just as keen to meet the prisoners as the prisoners are to see them! Young Offenders, remands and long termers were all visited. It is a really successful and rewarding scheme. It is always a pleasure to have the dogs in – they are so well behaved and seem to have a calming effect on the staff and prisoners alike.”

What a commendation! Our thanks to John and Catherine, and of course Kira and Hogan, for their dedication.

### **A New Recruit**

Corgi Cher and owner Jim Mackie live in Grangemouth and joined the Therapet Scheme at the end of last year. Recently Jim wrote to let us know how he was getting on visiting the Haining Nursing Home and the Bonnybridge Hospital. He said, “At first it was a bit daunting but the staff at both set us at ease. I think that Cher settled at the visiting almost straight away. It is a pleasure to see the joy on the old peoples faces as soon as we enter. And Cher wrote:-

“When my Dad said that a lady was coming to assess me for visits to hospitals the first thing I thought was, oh no Vets! But a lovely lady called Lynsey came to assess me. I must have passed because one day my Dad said “Cher try your Therapet Jacket on.” It was a bit tight so I had to go on a diet and as a result I have lost 5 Kilo and I am always starving.

On my first visit to the Haining I went to an old lady and touched her hand with my nose, she looked at me and pulled my ear. Then Dad asked the lady “Do you like my dog Cher?” She said she really liked me, which I was really chuffed about. It transpired that she had a stroke about 18 months ago and that her first real reaction since then was to speak to me and my Dad. The lady’s daughter was there and she was over the moon with me helping her. Boy, did I get a biscuit for that!”

Over the years we have had so many stories of wonderful reactions to Therapets.

### **Thanks**

Dumfries Area Representative, Maureen Hill, had a stand at a craft fayre in Closeburn. She wrote to say that “A lovely old gent who bought from our table, thanked us for the kindness we show to a special lady in one of the nursing homes and made a donation to the cause. He has been taking the lady to church for 48 years and she is now 93. We have visited her every fortnight since I started Therapet in 2001.”

### **Leo the Therapet**

Leo is a ten year old Labrador who lives in Edinburgh. Earlier this year his owner and Therapet Volunteer Sue Simpson wrote:-

“Leo went blind last summer – quite suddenly as far as we’re concerned, but it was probably more gradual for him. It is a disease called SAEF (Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration) and once you look on the Internet you realise it is quite common.

I won't bore you with the details, except of course it was a terrible shock. Anyway – as the special vet eye man said he will acquire a special awareness and to dogs their eyesight is not their primary sense. Suffice to say he has been really WONDERFUL! The main difficulty has been to protect him without letting our poor human senses overrule his! We live on the first floor so to start with I took him down the step stone stairs on the lead – “step, step, step” etc. The one day I opened the front door and he just went dashing down as before! Silly me! We still go to Bonnington and, after a few adaptations in the games we all enjoy, it is as before.

He is even more adventurous on our walks. And has gained lots of admirers. He “goes for it” at some speed now, even going straight through peoples’ legs when he encounters them!

I thought you would be interested to hear this and would be pleased to help anyone else whose dog has gone blind.”

Thank you Sue and well done Leo. I will be very interested to hear other accounts of how dogs have overcome their disabilities.

**The following press release speaks for itself.**

### **“THERAPETS PROVIDE PUPPY LOVE AT THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPICE”**

It has always been thought that a dog is a man's best friend and this has certainly proved true at The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

As well as their cute and cuddly exteriors which provide comfort and companionship animals also offer an alternative and more enjoyable means of therapy for many patients.

Through communication and contact Therapets can have exceptional effects on patient moral, confidence and self esteem as well as providing physical benefits such as increased mobility and sensation.

The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Carlton Place has utilised this alternative animal assisted therapy for 20 years with great success.

James Macdonald, a Fire-fighter with Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Service from Cowcaddens Fire Station was the first volunteer to bring this ‘puppy love’ to the hospice in 1986 and has recently received an award for his 20 years of service.

As a member of the Canine Concern Trust for Scotland, James introduced the Therapet programme as an alternative method of therapy which offered patients help with both physical and social skills.

Morag Cunningham, Fundraising Director at The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice said, “It is a joy to both staff and patients when a Therapet visits the hospice. They offer such comfort and companionship to our patients especially those who are missing a pet at home or are finding it hard to communicate.

“On behalf of everyone at the hospice I would like to congratulate James on receiving his award for 20 years of dedicated service. The Therapet sessions are appreciated by

all at the hospice and provide patients with a more relaxed and enjoyable type of therapy.”

James` said, “It is a joy to work with the hospice and I am extremely grateful for my award.

“It is a great experience to witness the impact the dogs can have on patients. All dogs are assessed for their suitability to become a Therapet to ensure they offer the best service to those who need it most.”

Anyone wishing to support the hospice please contact 0141 429 5599.

For information on Canine Concern Scotland Trust & Therapet contact 01586 810123

Issued by the BIG partnership

On behalf of The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice

For further information please contact

Alison Smith: 0141 333 9585”

### **Prize Winning Letter**

Tracey Anderson of Edinburgh won a prize for the following letter to her local paper:-

“I would like to thank the Staff and patients (friends) at St. Columbus Hospice for their love over the years. I recently retired from working as a Therapet volunteer and, from 1996, took my dog on many visits to the Hospice. Sadly due to my disabilities and my dog Bobby’s age we have had to give up and will miss everyone, but still hope to pop in on occasion.

Therapet is when an animal visits an organisation, hospital or person’s home – the only stipulation is that the animal has a suitable temperament and is more than a year old.

Bobby is a cross-collie who started life in a black bag, thrown into a river and was the only pup of the litter to survive. With all the love and care he was given he has become extra special and has made lots of friends at St Columba’s and with the many children he has visited in their homes.

Sadly Bobby is now 14 years old, his age has caught up with him and it’s time to retire. Thank you to all the staff, myself, my nine kids and my dog Bobby have enjoyed the visits very much.

If anyone would like to find out more about Therapet they can contact Canine Concern Scotland Trust, Minard House, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, PA28 6PZ. Telephone 01596 810123.

I am no hero but Bobby is and I know they are always looking for volunteers. I cannot recommend this enough as you get so much love and joy from these visits and Bobby loved the attention!”

***Bobby was Runner-up for Therapet of the Year in 2002.***

**Very, very sadly I have just heard that Bobby was put to sleep earlier this month. I know that you will all wish to join with me in sending sincerest sympathies to Tracey and her family.**

## **Snippets**

Margaret Kinnear and Curly Coated Labrador “Bonnie” visit the Balfour Unit at the Astley Ainsley Hospital, Edinburgh, each week. Margaret says that “Bonnie loves all the patients and many are extremely fond of her, even people who originally said that they didn’t like animals! Some often want us to stay much longer and even ask us to come more often and insist that Bonnie knows them personally now.” I am sure that a great many of you can relate to that!

Carol Roberts writes “I would like to update you on Robbie (my Miniature Schnauzer Therapet). He regularly visits The Oaks, a Palliative day care centre in Elgin. His enthusiasm know no bounds as he arrive, bringing smile, “regulars”, and myself, greeting everyone and thoroughly enjoying himself. I am so pleased that I am part of the Therapet Scheme.”

## **Sad Departures**

Having lost two dogs in one year I know only too well how those of you whose dogs have died feel. So much heartache and yet such wonderful memories – not a day goes by without me thinking of Holly and all of our dogs that followed her. At this time we send our sympathies to members and friends who have recently lost their beloved pets.

Raymond Tate’ Pekinese “Cassie”  
Irene Anderson’s Yorkie “Lucy”  
Irene Taylor’s Golden Retriever “Sam”  
Peter Hamilton-Gray’s Golden Retriever “Donna”  
Karen Binnie’s Hungarian Vizsla “Brook”  
Christine Watt’s “Connor”  
Fiona Stalker’s Collie “Kimberley”

## **Veterinary Certificates**

These certificates have been issued to all existing and new Therapet Volunteers. They are for completion by your Veterinary Surgeons and you can then keep them handy and make available if required. Please contact Nick if you need more certificates.

## **Car Stickers**

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

Please keep sending your Therapet news – it is great to hear everything that is happening and to be able to share your experiences with other Therapetters.

## **THERAPET OF THE YEAR 2006**

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.

## **EDINBURGH MARATHON**

Mr Alan Rawlings of Earlston, Berwickshire ran in this years Edinburgh Marathon and donated some of his sponsorship money to the Trust. We were delighted to receive a cheque for £100

## TRUSTEES

The Trust is fortunate to have a strong Board of Trustees. The Trustees have considerable experience and expertise in their own occupations as well as in the world of dogs. You will recall that sadly Dr Brian Sproule died early last year. In his place I am delighted to report that Dr Valerie Marrian MBChB FRCP FRCPE DCH has agreed to become a Trustee. Dr Marrian brings with her a wealth of knowledge in her own profession and considerable experience in dogdom. The Trustees are happy to be available to Members and their contact details are:-

Mr George Leslie 01560 600246 <a href="mailto:MACTALLA3@aol.com">MACTALLA3@aol.com</a>	Mr James Macdonald 0141 632 4893 <a href="mailto:James@bramlynn.freesevice.co.uk">James@bramlynn.freesevice.co.uk</a>	Mrs Rita Percival 0141 779 3092
Mr Allan Sim 0131 317 7377 <a href="mailto:allansim@blueyonder.co.uk">allansim@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	Mr John Stead 01436 675381 <a href="mailto:jam.stead@ukgateway.net">jam.stead@ukgateway.net</a>	Dr Valerie Marrian 01738 621018 <a href="mailto:ValMarrian1@aol.com">ValMarrian1@aol.com</a>

## 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.

## 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

I think that is about all for now. Please remember to submit your nominations for Therapet of the Year in good time and I shall look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Awards Lunch in November.

Best wishes.  
Yours sincerely

Marjorie Henley Price



