

## BULLETIN 66 – August 2009

Dear Members and Friends

Autumn is almost upon us and a very wet Summer is coming to an end. Some parts of Scotland have certainly had more than their fair share of rain. Here's hoping that the next few months are a little drier! I am sorry that we are a little late with the Bulletin.

This time I will start with details of our annual **PRESENTATION AWARDS LUNCHEON** which this year will take place at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 1.15 pm. It is always a most enjoyable event at which we pay 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 9<sup>th</sup> November at the latest. The price is £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 19th 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 2009**

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 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 19<sup>th</sup> October. Your Area Representative will be able to help you with the form.

Fortunately, after two years of enforced cancellations, **THE ANNUAL COMPANION DOG SHOW** did take place in Queens Park, Glasgow this year. It was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June and the weather was kind. Sadly I was unable to attend but from all reports it was well attended and, as always, extremely well organised by the Committee of Management led by James Macdonald and the hard working Show Manager/Secretary John Stead. Our two loyal Patrons, Lesley Fitz-Simons and Rosemary Long, were there and Glasgow's Lord Provost was represented by Bailie Jean McFadden.

The judge for the pedigree classes was Karen Dalglish from Hamilton. The novelty classes were judged by X-Factor star Michelle McManus along with Winifred Hagan and Trustee George Leslie. The best pedigree dog in the show was Sadie McTaggart's Australian Shepherd Dog "TEAL".

The Road Safety Obedience classes were well filled and were judged by Pat Vaughan, Mary Getty, Helen Sutherland and Len Church.

Our friends from the Kirkintilloch and District Dog Training Club gave demonstrations of Agility Work throughout the day and members of the public were able to try their own dogs on the agility course. The Club also gave a demonstration of Flyball Racing which was a real crowd pleaser!

And, of course, there was a parade of many of our Therapets from all over Scotland. Patron Rosemary Long gave the commentary, each Therapet was given a bag of goodies and each volunteer received a Volunteers Week certificate.

As usual our **ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW** was drawn at the show and there were winners from Aberdeen, Beaulie, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Invergowrie and many other places. We are very grateful to everyone who donated prizes, sold tickets and bought tickets. As well as buying tickets many of you sent additional donations, thank you for your generosity.

Before the show I was very sorry to learn that Patron **Lesley Fitz-Simons** had been ill and was undergoing a course of treatment. In spite of her health problems she came to the show and everybody was delighted to see her. She is presently recovering from an operation and I am sure that you will all wish to join with me in sending her love and

best wishes for a full recovery. Lesley is looking forward to being with us at the Presentations Lunch in November – we are looking forward to seeing you Lesley!!

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## **THERAPETS**

Sadly, but as usual, 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 April Bulletin we have learned that the following have died:-

“**BUDDY**”, Jim & Margaret Bell’s Yorkie  
“**CUILLIN**”, Jocelyn Ness’ Gordon Setter  
“**MURPHY**”, Kirsteen Reekie’s Cross Breed  
“**OLLIE**”, Scott Fernie’s Bearded Collie  
“**PUDDLES**”, James and Jean Stewart’s Labrador  
“**TIZZY**”, Eveline Davies’ Whippet Cross  
“**TRICK**”, Archie & Esther McLellan’s Labrador

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 great work done by both you and your Therapets.

## **THERAPET NEWS**

Please keep sending news of how your Therapets are getting on, how they react to their role as Therapets and their stories. Please also send your views on how the service is operating and what developments you would like to see. This sort of feedback is very important to us and very valuable to other volunteers.

**ROSEMARY GRAY** from Dumfries wrote sometime ago about Therapet Boris, a Greyhound, who suffered an awful break to his leg. Obviously this put a halt to his Therapet visiting. Rosemary sent some remarkable x-ray pictures of the remedial work carried out by her Vet. More recently she wrote saying “Boris still limps occasionally as a result of the break and also his arthritis and will probably be on medication for the remainder of his life (he is only 6½). But he is back to his daft, bouncing self and we had a good visit to the Nursing Home this morning.” Well done Boris and keep up the good works!

“Just a wee note to let you know how things are going.” writes **MARTHA BRINDLEY**. “Hal and Sam are now fast becoming regular visitors to Hillside Care Home in Paisley.

We are now on our 4<sup>th</sup> visit and the boys are enjoying it very much. They jump out of the car with tails wagging and drag their poor mother to the door! Once inside, however, they become two Whippet angels and thoroughly enjoy being made a fuss of. The residents now recognise them and, I hope, enjoy the visits. It is very rewarding to see so many smiles when the dogs enter the room and I enjoy the comments regarding the dogs.

Many thanks for the opportunity to carry out this very worthwhile experience. Please let me know if I can be of any more assistance.”

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**SUSAN EDWARDS** has written:-

“Your April Bulletin asks for new of Therapets and their visits and I thought I would say a word about Mercy who has been a Therapet for two and a half years now, since she was eighteen months old. She is a little unusual in that she is a Lhasa Apso, which I believe is not a common breed to find in the service, and she visits a ward in the Royal Edinburgh Psychiatric Hospital. Mercy does not have the extrovert nature of some dogs but in time she has become a great favourite with patients and staff, willing to be stroked and patted by often clumsy hands, to shake a paw and to do her range of tricks at the drop of a treat. Above all, her smallness, her busy, jaunty walk and her bright personality raise a smile wherever she goes and give folk a cheerful few minutes and something to talk about. Her photo on Christmas cards is often treasured. A little dog bringing a little bit of happiness.

I think this is an excellent service and hope numbers continue to grow. It is always sad to read of Therapets who have died and I hope that their places are taken by new members.”

In fact we have 11 Lhasa Apsos currently registered as Therapets along with two Lhasa Apso Crosses.

**TRACEY STEWART** from Banchory writes:-

“Just a little letter to inform you of Keira’s progress. Since February 12<sup>th</sup> we have been doing our Therapet visits at Banchory’s Scotty Centre on a weekly basis. Keira attends different days each week so as to give most of the residents a chance to see her.

It has proved most successful, Keira is a huge success with everyone she meets and has even overcome the fears of three people who were terrified of dogs. Needless to say this is the most rewarding part of doing Therapet.

Our visits range for thirty minutes up to one hour depending on how many people there are to go round. Keira never seems to tire and really enjoys what is asked of her. Her sweet nature, her calmness and strong will to please, I am so proud of my dog after each visit.

At present this is the only visit we are doing but in the near future shall proceed to visit an elderly care home.

I am so glad to be doing this work, it is hugely satisfying.”

In early March **WINNIE COWIE** from, Craigbo in Buckie wrote:-

“Re:- Thoughts on aging Therapets.

My Japanese Chin is 13 years on 19<sup>th</sup> March. I had intentions of retiring her but have decided to keep her doing her visits to the two homes. As she loves going, as soon as you mention the word “ladies” she starts to bark and knows where she is going. As

she was a rescued dog she has done well. It will be seven years in July since I used her as a Therapet. We are going to keep going! We are the oldest swingers in town!”

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## **THERAPET PUBLICITY**

In June Trustee and Area Representative for Edinburgh and the Lothians **DOUGLAS RUTHVEN** aided by roving Trustee **JAMES MACDONALD** attended the Sick Kids Friends Foundation Teddy Toddle and Summer Fair in Meadowbank. Corporate & Events Fundraiser Lucy Rothwell wrote:-

“Thank you so much for coming along to our summer fair and Teddy toddle, the dogs were such an attraction for so many of the young children, many of whom recognised the dogs from their regular visits to the hospital. I was so glad to hear later on in the afternoon that you felt the event had delivered for Therapet by making people more aware of the awesome service that you provide, I am so glad we were able to help deliver this. After talking to Denise previously I know how much it means to all involved to have the regular Therapet visits to the hospital and how lucky we are to have you.

We will be reviewing the Teddy Toddle and Summer Fair shortly so we have as much information and feedback as possible to help us plan for 2010. To help us do this we are asking those who were involved on the day to come back to us with feedback, how you felt the event went and also any improvements which we should consider for next year, this feedback will enable us to make the Teddy Toddle and Summer Fair 2010 even better!

Once again thank you so much for taking the time to come along to the Teddy Toddle, it was a very successful event and without organisations such as yours attending it would not have been the same.

I hope to see you in the future and if you can think of any other way in which we can work together please do not hesitate contacting me.”

**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 Nick know and he will be able to supply you, and the media, with backup information.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

A renewal notice was issued with the January Bulletin and a reminder 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.

## **GIFT AID**

Just a reminder to tax payers that all membership fees and donations can be sent under the Gift Aid Scheme and this enables the Trust to reclaim significant amounts of tax from HM Revenue & Customs.

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### **THE ANNUAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES WITH AREA REPRESENTATIVES AND THERAPET REPRESENTATIVES**

was held in Perth in July and was a successful event. It gives everybody a chance to get to know each other better and to share their knowledge and experiences. Chairman of Trustees, George Leslie, welcomed everybody and during the morning session there was a review of the Trust, its objectives, how it operates and how it is financed. The plans for a new look website were considered. There was a wide ranging discussion on all aspects of the Therapet Service which was led off by Lynsey Thomson describing how she organises things in the Stirlingshire area. George Leslie gave a most informative talk on Therapet Health and brought us up-to-date with developments relating to vaccinations and how essential it is for Therapets to be properly vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of their Veterinary Surgeons. In the afternoon James Macdonald led a session on educational matters relating to dogs with special emphasis on school visits and how they should be arranged and managed. A good and worthwhile day was had by all.

**THE WEBSITE** is being revamped and it will include a lot more information on the work of the Trust and in particular the Therapet Service. It is planned to have a library of pictures of Therapets so that the pictures will be changing constantly on the site. Please therefore send pictures of your Therapets to Nick in the office. For preference please send them as email attachments but if you don't have email access please send pictures by post. If you are sending pictures which include residents or patients in the places you visit please ensure that you obtain appropriate permissions. If in doubt please contact Nick for help.

### **FUND RAISING and SPONSORED EVENTS**

Already this year a number of events have been held. Members of the **Kirkintilloch and District Dog Training Club** held a sponsored walk for the benefit of the Trust. **Margaret Gray** of Dumfries participated in the Edinburgh Marathon and obtained sponsorship for the Trust. **Eleanor Redmond and Rottweiler Rogan** did a solo sponsored walk in Kilbarchan. **Norma Murray**, our Area Representative for Tayside organised a sponsored walk in Friockheim Woods on 5<sup>th</sup> September. In Badenoch & Strathspey **Vivien Moen** and her dedicated team held a very successful Bridge afternoon in the Spring and are organising a sponsored walk from Boat of Garten to Loch Vaa and back on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October meeting at The Boat of Garten Community Hall at 10.30am. 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. So far this year a magnificent £2,602 has been raised by these various events.

Sponsored Walks can be great fun and provide an opportunity for members to get to know each other. 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.

### **ITEMS AVAILABLE**

One of our longest serving members, she has been a member for over twenty years, has donated some items which she hopes can be sold for the benefit of the Trust. The items are:-

1. First Day Stamp Cover (5 stamps) for Crufts Dog Show Centenary 1891 – 1991
2. Crufts issues of Dog World or Our Dogs covering the years 1987 to 2009 (1992 & 1993 issues are missing) featuring the Best in Show Winners on the front pages and full reports on each group/activity inside.
3. Book containing coloured pictures and details of VA Dogs and Bitches from the German Sieger Shows 1974 to 1989 – book bought at the Sieger show in 1989.
4. Volumes 1 to 6 of The German Shepherd Dog National Magazine which is the Official Journal of the G.S.D.Breed Council – Great Britain

If you are interested in any, or all the items, please send a note of your bid to Nick in the office. The highest bids will win. Do not send any money at this stage!

I hope that you all, and your dogs, have a safe winter and that 2010 will be a good year for you.

Yours sincerely

### **Marjorie Henley Price**

PS Please remember:-

- a) The Awards Lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> November
- b) Nominations for Therapet of the Year to be in by 18<sup>th</sup> October
- c) The Companion Dog Show on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009
- d) Renew your membership, if you have not already done so!

### **TRUSTEES**

The Trustees are that happy that you contact them if there is any matter, relating to the Trust, that you would like to discuss with them.

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## **AREA & THERAPET REPRESENTATIVES**

### **ABERDEEN**

#### **Clare Copland has moved house recently**

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