

# BORDER CROSSING

GAIL GRAY reflects on her rescue work in West Wales

I have been asked to write a short article about my connection with Bath Cats and Dogs Home and the work I do near Aberaeron in West Wales.

My first contact with the BCDH was when I left school, at 16 in 1969, and became a kennel maid there. Then, when my husband and I moved to Wales several years ago, we became volunteers at the Ty Agored Animal Sacturary, a shelter full to the brim with unwanted animals. These were mainly collies from surrounding farms, ex breeding bitches and unwanted puppies from the many puppy farms in this part of Wales. Many of these dogs were unable to find new homes and spent years at Ty Agored.

I remained in touch with Lynda Pearce in Bath, a fellow 'Friend', and with permission from the BCDH we decided to bring some of these dogs and puppies to Bath for rehoming.

Over the years scores of dogs have been rehomed by Bath Cats and Dogs home. An ancient labrador; a grumpy old jack russell; a depressed English Bull Terrier; Afghan hounds; Blue a nervous Spaniel from a puppy farm who shortly after her arrival in Bath gave birth to a litter of cockerpoo puppies and lots and lots of collies including Roo, whose story is told by Claire on the page opposite.

Ty Agored closed a few years ago but there is still a desperate need for a rescue centre in this part of Wales. When I can, I



*Gail with one of her rescued puppies.*

take Border Collies and small breeds from one of the local pounds. The Border Collies go to Collie Rescue in Reading and Bath takes some of the smaller dogs such as Jack, the Scottie featured in the last issue of the Friends newsletter and who is now blissfully happy in his new home in Bath.

It has been lovely over the years to see the Bath home develop and the conditions for the animals improve so much since those early days in the 60's when I worked there. >>