

I never imagined that 45 years later I would still be helping homeless dogs and have this continuing connection with Bath Cats and Dogs Home and the 'Friends'. So a huge thank you to the Home and all it's supporters for their help in rehoming these lovely Welsh dogs."

IN PRAISE OF THE OLDER GENERATION

CLAIRE CREW REMEMBERS ROO

FOR anyone who has thought about adopting an older, more mature, dog from Bath Cats and Dogs Home, I hope my story will encourage you to give an OAD (old age dog) its forever home.

Two months ago I lost the beautiful and exceptional Roo: I adopted him from the Home in April 2006 when he was a late middle aged nine year old. He had been abandoned in someone's garden in Wales, rescued by a lovely lady called Gail (please also read her story in this newsletter) and finally brought over to Bath. In my view, for any unwanted or neglected dog to end up at BCDH is like winning the canine lottery!

One of my friends said that Roo was a "special needs" dog – not that he had any, just that he was deaf, didn't wag his tail very much and didn't understand the concept of playing. However, he loved going for long walks along the canal towpath, always wanting to stop whenever we met children. He liked cats and adored my mum's roast chicken! I never thought when I brought him home that I would have the pleasure of Roo's company for nearly seven years. Of course it broke my heart to have him put to sleep but I knew that I had given him the best life I possibly could.

Still grieving for Roo and having convinced myself that I needed a bit of a break, I made the mistake of looking at the Home's website and spotted Burt and Ernie, twelve year old Jack Russell brothers whose owner had died. Sadly Ernie had been diagnosed with thyroid cancer by the Home's vets but I knew that in spite of this, or perhaps because of it, I wanted to give these two gorgeous boys a home.

They have only been with me for a week but it seems as if they've been here for so much longer. They have settled in incredibly well, are real characters and of course great company. They enjoy their three short walks a day, love snoozing in their beds by the radiator and I'm sure they'll love my mum's roast chicken too!

So, if you're thinking about adopting a dog from Bath Cats and Dogs Home, please don't overlook the older generation; they will repay you a thousand times over with their love and gratitude.



Burt & Ernie, safe and happy, in their new home

