



NEWSLETTER

October 2018

www.friendsofbcdh.org



Registered Charity No: 284424

Friends of Bath Cats & Dogs Home,
The Avenue, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AZ

Chairman's Report

Dear Members,

You will no doubt be aware, through previous Newsletters, that the Friends are involved in helping to fund the latest improvements to the facilities at the Bath Cats & Dogs Home namely a completely new kennel complex which includes enrichment paddocks, new intake and isolation areas as well as a new area specifically for puppies and designated kennels for dogs who are the subject of R.S.P.C.A. legal cases.

During October a number of the Trustees were invited to have a 'Hard Hat' tour of the building site to give them a better idea of exactly what the floor plan of the kennel block would look like and to give them a feel for how the project is progressing. It is hoped that the project will be completed in early 2019 following a small delay in supply of steelwork.

Your Trustees and helpers have been hard at work trying to raise funds to help replenish the Friends reserves ahead of any other demands on our finances. The events we have held have all been successful but only raise relatively small amounts meaning we are still heavily dependent on legacies.

This inevitably leads me to another very important matter which cannot be ignored. 'The Friends of Bath Cats and Dogs Home' is a small charity and does not have the wherewithal to embark on national recruitment campaigns to find new members. This means we are only able to recruit at our fund-raising events and through 'word of mouth' contact with visitors to our events. Which is where we need your help

We hope you will not be offended by the inclusion of a Membership Application Form with your newsletter and would simply ask that those of you that are able pass this form on to a friend, relation, or anyone you think may be interested in the work we do and would be willing to invest £12-00 per year to become a member, and thereby increase our regular income stream.

Robin Eastman

Front cover *Our cover boy is a Staffordshire Bull Terrier called Tyler. Tyler is a sweet boy who enjoys the company of his human friends. He is affectionate and will happily sit on the sofa for a cuddle if he's allowed.*

For further information contact the Home on 01225 787321 or visit the website www.bathcatsanddogshome.org.uk

Shumba and Lucky on a day out

A good time was had by all the tenants at St. John's Court when I visited them with my two rescue dogs Shumba and Lucky. We all had lots of fun and a lovely time. The dogs were very well behaved,



Shumba and Lucky on their best behaviour!

apart from Lucky who delighted in the smells coming from the kitchen - we found her heading there on a few occasions which, of course, the tenants found highly amusing. Shumba and Lucky especially enjoyed all the yummy biscuits given to them by their new friends. We will definitely be visiting again over the Christmas period.

I'm so delighted that we can give people so much joy especially those that have previously had their own dog and can no longer do so.

Lesleyann Teague

Membership Matters

If you came to the Home's Fun Day on the August Bank Holiday you may have caught a glimpse, through the safety fencing and piles of rubble, of the new kennel block. The steelwork is up and very soon six of the Friends Trustees will be donning hard hats for an escorted tour of the work in progress. The Friends have pledged £600,000 towards the cost of this exciting new building, and this is only possible because of the support and generosity of our members.

You may have come to one of the Friends events at the Home this year – the Garden Party and Plant Sale, or the Clothes Sale. Again, these fundraising events are only possible because members bake cakes or volunteer to help on the day.

A huge amount of rebuilding and refurbishing has gone on at the Home in recent years, but there is still more to do. The Friends can only help with



this work if we have supporters who pay subscriptions and help out at events. We are very grateful indeed to everyone who currently supports us, but we need more members, so please tell your friends about the Friends. Anyone whose friend joins the Friends will be sent a voucher for a free drink and slice of cake at one of our events! Pass on this newsletter to someone, or ask your vet, hairdresser or dentist to put it in their waiting room. We can happily supply more copies if you wish.

Thank you!

Judith Burgess, Membership Secretary

A PEARL ANNIVERSARY OF RESCUED FRIENDS OR THIRTY YEARS OF RESCUING DOGS by Elaine Eastman

In the November of 1988 we had gone six weeks of not having horses due to family commitments and life seemed very empty. We decided to go to Bath Cats and Dogs Home to see about getting a dog to fill the gap.

We came home with a collie cross Labrador called Kaleb. He was an ideal dog for new and reasonably inexperienced owners. He was known in the local pet shop as the best behaved dog in the place we live and he adored agility. We had many happy years together. In 1997 we were dog walking at the Dogs Home and usually walked greyhounds as they seemed to be ignored by some dog walkers. Here we met Lucy a black greyhound who had been used for breeding and as Kaleb walked well with her she came home with us.

Next a tan and white greyhound with a broken leg came in via the RSPCA Inspector. A foster home was required and we said YES in 1998. Charlie came home as a foster and was adopted by us soon after the vet had said his leg was reasonable. He was a lovely chap always trying to please and a useful member of the team for fund raising as he loved children.

Blaze was the next, a collie x. He was a



Grace

determined chap who loved food and he also loved agility but mainly food. All dogs were good with my mother. She had had a stroke and was somewhat disabled. One day I came home and found her on the floor where she had fallen with all dogs sat around her to keep her warm.

In November 2000 we had to say goodbye to Kaleb as his arthritis was getting the better of him and the vet called time. Sadly this left a space in our hearts so we adopted Roger another collie x. He was a



Chappie, Queenie and Grace

troubled soul and did not overly like other dogs and we were told by the Home he wouldn't get on with our dogs. He moved in and became a respected member of our pack. He was OK with our dogs but certainly didn't like others.

Roger, our little comet was taken from us in January 2006. A problem dog that had a heart of gold. In April 2006 we had to say goodbye to Lucy as old age had caught up with her. This was a double whammy as I had no girls in my group. So along came greyhound Grace from a different rescue as the Home had no greyhound girls available at the time. Grace was a gentle girl with a stubborn streak.

Things went along smoothly until Charlie injured his bad leg and had to have it removed in 2008. This didn't slow him



Benjii

at all and he seemed much happier without his leg. Shortly after this Blaze was diagnosed with diabetes, as I have said earlier he loved his food and this seemed to increase with age. This meant insulin injections and he didn't like me giving them to him. Blaze developed cataracts on both eyes and used his nose like a battering ram if something was in his way. We did not move any furniture after this.

In 2010 Charlie's last good hind leg gave up and we had to say good bye to him. Not long after this Blaze gave up and after a trip to the vet time had to be called on him. The next incumbent was a white lurcher called Danny who came to live with us. He fitted in very well and enjoyed his life with Grace.

In 2011 we were offered a puppy by a charity that takes dogs from gypsies run by our friend Jackie Dalton. So our first puppy Benjii came home with us and Grace looked after him until he was about three months old and then it was Danny's turn. Had we known the future we might have had second thoughts as in December I was diagnosed with cancer and had an operation in January. I can truthfully say the dogs help me through this time although it didn't do a lot for Benjii's training.

Once this dark period had passed our little family progressed well until 2017. After a lovely day out Grace began to have a problem walking and after a visit to the vet once again we had to make the hardest of all decisions and call time on her for her own good. The same thing happened to Danny several months later. We tried

to find a greyhound girl to keep Benjii company but he preferred a Saluki x bitch called Queenie. She was a difficult dog and could scale a six foot high wall with a single bound to visit our neighbour's waste food bin.

We decided that we had space for another dog and decided to foster from BCDH as they were getting a large amount of nervous lurchers so Chappie came to stay. He was a nervous dog and gradually got used to us and after two months went back to the Home to find his forever home.

Christmas came and Benjii was not well and in the New Year he went to the vets for blood tests. These came back as advanced cancer of the lymph nodes and it was decided to say goodbye. This caused a great problem to Queenie and she became very destructive and with great sadness we returned her to the charity she came from. Our first failure.

After a miserable and depressing six weeks we went to the home and adopted Poppy who is a delightful lurcher girl who is very obliging and loves to dig the lawn. We then fostered another lurcher called Kermit. He was nervous but quickly came around and was very friendly so off he went to his new home.

Poppy appeared to miss him very much so we went to the Home again and adopted Genie another nervous lurcher girl who has settled in very well, both our girls are well loved and we will be shortly looking for another lurcher to foster.



Poppy and Genie

A Street Cat Named Lennox by Jane Tapeley

Jane wrote in to tell us how her rescued cat was settling in to his new home.

Back in November 2017 I visited Claverton in search of a new furry friend. My neighbours had recently lost a beautiful ginger Tom who, after the arrival of a large puppy, came over the wall and set up home with me. This coincided with the sudden death of my husband, so Biscuit the cat needed a quiet haven and I needed him for solace. Sadly, he was run over and we all felt bereaved so I thought it was time to find my own companion, after having loved and shared our home with seven previous feline friends over thirty years.

On my first visit to BCDH I spotted another ginger Tom called Lennox who had been found roaming the streets of Trowbridge. It was thought he was about three but he was very shy and timid and spent his whole time sheltering in his igloo. No potential new owner could see him hiding and he had been there for several months. I peered into his cage and two little hazel eyes were peering out. I slowly put my hand in and tickled him on his head and he responded very positively without trying to scratch this intruder. I felt it was a very positive response and expressed an interest in him. The Home told me that he needed a quiet home without any other pet and no children so I was the perfect candidate.

After a few days I returned to see him and applied to adopt him. He came home with me and I was advised to keep him in one room to begin with, with a tray and regular meals but not to approach him until he showed an interest in socialising. He would come to me when he felt safe. I bought several toys but he had no idea how to play with them but after a while he started to headbutt a catnip ball and started purring with pleasure at this new experience. This led him to rolling over on his back and eventually I was able to tickle him with my hand. After several months he is still nervous at sudden movements or visitors but he's really making himself at home and now has his own chair and central spot in front of the fire. I recently encouraged him to go out and explore through the cat flap and fortunately for both of us he always returns to where he now knows he belongs as my new best friend.....



Princess and Robin – by Kirsty Long

The Home prides itself on rehabilitating dogs that other centres may not take on, and working closely with them. We match training needs to each specific dog to help them on their way to being rehomed.

On arrival to BCDH, a pair of poodles called Robin and Princess were very scared and it became apparent early on that they would need extra help to encourage them to enjoy life.

Neither Robin or Princess wanted to approach people, they would hide in their crate. We set about making sure they had a consistent routine, so it would help give them security. We also made sure at the start they had the same assessor behaviourists deal with them, so they got to know faces and could start to create a bond.

We decided C block would be the best place for them to begin to adjust to kennel life, so they could take things in at their own pace in a quiet environment. Within a few days of routine, and the same faces, both began respond positively. Robin more so, he showed himself off to be the most confident – he would approach and wait by your feet to be picked up! We also found out that Robin loves to give you kisses, it was quite emotional the first time he did it.

Scared of the outside world, but unable to walk on a lead yet as not used to it, the behaviour assessors had to find a way to introduce them to things slowly. We decided that we would go into the car park, and just sit on the benches with them on our laps. This enabled them to start seeing life outside kennels, whilst we worked on their lead walking skills.

We began introducing them to the Cabin after a couple of weeks, which is set up like a home environment. C block is lucky to have



a band of dedicated volunteers, including Lynda Pearce who brought the poodles into us, so we were very lucky to be able to have these people to also help us rehabilitate the poodles.

The volunteers would sit in the Cabin with them, either reading, or listening to the radio, so that Robin and Princess could start getting used to different people that weren't in uniform. We ask the volunteers to talk to them, but allow the poodles to approach them rather than set out to cuddle them. The hands off approach worked, and within just a few sittings, Robin would soon be asking to sit on their laps! Princess took longer, she would sit and hide under the table. However, even she showed signs of improvement – in the later stages she would feel confident enough to wander out into the garden.

All these things helped Robin and Princess find a new loving home. We introduced the potential owner to them in the cabin, and as they were relaxed in their surroundings they took to her straight away. It sealed the deal, and within a couple of visits they were soon adopted into their new loving home.

It is so rewarding working with dogs like Robin and Princess, to watch them start to transform and blossom. Knowing you helped give them the confidence to find a forever home makes the job so worthwhile.

Dates For Your Diary for 2018/19

Sunday 25 November 2018

The *Friends* will hold a Christmas coffee morning with festive food and an opportunity to pick up some Christmas gifts. As usual, there will be a raffle and Santa will be on hand to receive your gifts of food/treats for the animals along with his Festive Bottle Stall.

Summer Garden Party (Date to be Confirmed)

After last year's successful event, the *Friends* will be hosting another afternoon of cream teas and strawberries as well as a sale of plants and garden paraphernalia including paperback books for summer reading. Please do come and support us (and perhaps bake us some cakes or donate some suitable items?) and wish us a bright sunny summer's day for the event!!

Wednesday 19 June 2019

The *Friends'* AGM 2019 will be held at BCDH on Wednesday 19 June at 7pm with light refreshments available from 6.30pm. We

hope you are able to attend as this is your opportunity to make suggestions and raise issues with the trustees. It is also your opportunity to elect the *Friends'* trustees for 2019/20. If you are interested in standing as a committee member and trustee we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact our Chairman, Robin Eastman at chair@friendsofbcdh.org before the end of May 2019.

Monday 26 August 2019

BCDH will be holding its major fundraising event of the year with its annual Fun Day. The *Friends* will have a stall with some items for purchase. This is the perfect time to renew memberships or to entice friends, family and neighbours to join the *Friends* and help us raise much needed funds. As an extra incentive, if you introduce someone who subsequently joins the *Friends* you will receive a voucher, redeemable at a *Friends* event, for a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake!

Contact Details

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Trustees

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Nick Burgess (Vice Chairman)

Cary Bush (Treasurer)

Sammy Humphries (Secretary)

Louise Atkins

Claire Crew

Katrina Hurley

Fran Kent

Suzanna Mead

Dennis Long

Lynda Pearce

Lesleyann Teague

If you have any news items or interesting stories for our newsletter, please contact newsletter@friendsofbcdh.org. We would love to hear from you!