

### Welcome

#### to another zoomies-inducing edition of Wag.

This year, we're shining a light on some of the human heroes making a real difference for our dogs. From fostering and adopting, to fundraising, volunteering, and donating. Human heroes are the people giving their time and energy to make the world a better place for our pooches.

Tucked away in these pages, you'll find news of our vital work, heartwarming stories of people going the extra mile, recipes, crafts, and even a celeb lookalike or two.

So, grab yourself some treats, put your feet up, and dig in to the wonderful world of Wag.

#### Team Wag xo





#### On the cover

Hero adopters Pat and Dave with their furry friends Hector and Gizmo. Find out more about their story on page 14.

#### On the envelope



You may recognise handsome Joby from the envelope. He's a two-year-old crossbreed who's been at our Leeds rehoming centre since August 2023. Our training team have been working hard to get him ready for his forever family; contact our Leeds rehoming centre if that could be you.





#### Want to update uour details?

You can change your contact details easily via our website at dogstrust.org.uk/amend-details or by emailing us on wag@dogstrust.org.uk. Our phone lines can often be very busy so these ways of contacting us should be quicker and easier for you.

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Dogs Trust is now a charitable company which means we've got a more modern legal structure to help future-proof our vital work. We've got new charity numbers and we've updated our Privacy Policy to include them. You can find full details of our Privacy Policy at dogstrust.org.uk/ privacy, including how we look after your data and how you can opt out.

You can opt out of communications or change your preferences at any time by phoning 020 7837 0006 or via dogstrust.org.uk/keepintouch

Need a digital version of this magazine, or another format? Get in touch with us at wag@dogstrust.org.uk

Send us your pooch pics to wag@dogstrust.org.uk (high-res please!)

Wag © Dogs Trust 2024

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®

#### Want more Wag?

For all our latest advice, news about our work, and pupdates from our furry friends, sign up to our monthly emails at dogstrust.org.uk/sign-up or by scanning here.





### Happy rehomes





Rhubarb with Karen and David



Cheeka with Barbara and Richard



Jake with Veronica and Keith

Nothing makes us happier than finding our four-legged friends their forever home. Here are just a few new families we've helped bring together.



Axel with Kate and Izze



Lance with Amrit



**Geoff with Sharon** 

Wag 🏰 2024



We couldn't celebrate the humans giving it their all for our dogs without mentioning our canine carers. These passionate dog lovers go many extra miles every single day for the dogs in our care. Not only providing our pooches with all the food, blankets, and safety they need, but also giving them the love and playtime they deserve while we find them a new home.

We caught up with Rachel Wadsworth, one of the canine carers based at our Leeds centre, to find out what it's like to work for the benefit of dogkind.

Rachel says, "I've been passionate about animals since childhood and have always wanted to make the world better for them. Last year, I adopted my Beagle cross, Daisy, from Dogs Trust Ilfracombe and had such an amazing experience. I loved the staff, the centre facilities, and the aftercare we were provided with. I remember saying to my husband 'I'm going to work here one day', and now, here I am!"

A day at one of our rehoming centres can be as varied as our dogs. But some essentials need to happen to keep things running smoothly.

Rachel says: "Every morning the team gets together for a briefing - we discuss any appointments for the dogs and any other important information. We also plan who's caring for which dogs for the day, so all dogs are looked after. Then it's down to the kennel blocks.

We decide who's doing what and then get to work. First, we put their food together, sort out any medications and take the dogs out so they can go to the toilet. This bit usually goes smoothly because we all work together really well - I'm lucky to have such a great team."

"Next, we clean their kennels to keep them all safe, clean and happy. We make sure they have fresh water, bedding and plenty of toys. The corridors are swept and mopped, windows opened, and cleaning equipment disinfected.

After cleaning, we usually head to the staffroom for a quick coffee and bite to eat - it's physical work, so we need to keep our energy levels up!"



"After a quick break, it's time to take the dogs out. Their sessions can consist of walks, agility, scentwork, an offsite walk, training, playing with toys etc. - anything that will enrich their lives.

I have three project dogs at the moment, which means I'm responsible for carrying out the behaviour management plans they've been given by our training and behaviour advisors. These dogs have specific training in place to help them be rehomed quicker, so it's very important to keep on top of their plans.

At the end of the day, everyone gathers for the shutdown. Shutdown involves preparing more food and medications, cleaning the kennels again, replenishing toys, taking the dogs out for their last toilet breaks of the day, refreshing water bowls and emptying the bins before we turn off the lights and let the dogs settle down for the night."

When asked what her favourite part of the day was, Rachel said, "That's a tricky one. I've wanted to work for Dogs Trust forever, and now that I'm doing it, I sometimes have to pinch myself!

I just love making the dogs happy. Giving them quality time outside of their kennels is so important to me, I genuinely put everything I have into every single one. Bonding with the dogs after putting in the effort is magical.

As I said earlier, I also love the people I work with. We're always singing, making each other laugh, and supporting each other, which is so important in a job that can be very emotionally challenging at times.

But I think the ultimate part of my working day is seeing a dog go home with their new family. We sometimes shed some tears when they leave us, but they're (mostly) happy tears. Knowing that I played a part in getting them ready for their new home is the icing on the cake for me, and makes it all worth it."

Finally, we asked Rachel what she would say to anyone thinking of adopting one of our dogs, and she had this advice: "If you have patience, are willing to put in the work and give a dog the time they need, then go for it! There's no love like the love you get from a dog when you've won their trust. And providing them with the space to grow into themselves is such a gift."

If you're ready to step up and be the hero our dogs deserve (no cape necessary), find your local rehoming centre at dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/our-centres and get in touch today.







#### Thanks to Pets at Home Pets Club members for so many treats and toys!

One of the best parts of the day for our dogs is playtime and thanks to Pets at Home Pets Club, they have loads of toys to choose from! Our dogs love spending time with staff like Rachel playing with their favourite ball or stuffed toy, and our centres' toy boxes are full because of Lifeline vouchers they receive from Pets Club members who support Dogs Trust every time they shop.

Pets Club members have helped us keep tails wagging since 2012 and last year, we received over £120k worth of goodies! If you shop at Pets at Home, you can support us by joining Pets Club and choosing your local Dogs Trust as your Lifelines Charity. Go to dogstrust.org.uk/petsathome

#### A decade of doggy delight, thanks to

#### People's Postcode Lottery players



In the last 10 years we've done amazing things for our four-legged friends, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery who have raised over £24 million for us!

This remarkable funding has helped us provide life-changing care for dogs up and down the country. We've found happy homes for over 105,000 dogs, helped 90,000 pooches graduate Dog School with flying colours, and provided support for hundreds of thousands of dog owners who needed a helping paw. Here are some of the ways this amazing support has helped us keep tails wagging. You can find out more on our website at dogstrust.org.uk/peoples-postcode-lottery

#### State-of-the-art facilities

We've been able to improve our rehoming centres and build new ones, to make sure we can be there for all the dogs who need us, with facilities to help rehabilitate them and find them forever homes.



**Dedicated support for** dog owners

Our dedicated Customer Support Centre is a crucial point of contact for anyone needing our support. Struggling dog owners can turn to us for expert advice and rely on us to step in if they can't cope with their dog, knowing our teams will do all we can to help.

#### **Expert employees**

All our staff — from vets and canine carers to maintenance staff — play a vital role in keeping our dogs safe, fed and loved every day.

#### A decade in digits

Thanks to the support of players of People's Postcode Lottery, in the last 10 years we have:

- Found over **105,000** dogs their forever postcode in a home of their own
- Built a new rehoming centre in Cardiff with 156 new kennels, and revamped our Darlington rehoming centre, so we can care for more dogs every year
- Helped **90,000** dogs graduate from Dog School
- Given advice to new adopters over **300,000** times through our Post Adoption Support service and helped hundreds of thousands of dog owners through our Customer Support Centre
- Taught over 350,000 children about dog safety and responsible ownership







#### Mandy and Rupert

Canine carers, like Mandy from our Leeds centre, look after our dogs every day and help get them ready for adoption. Mandy worked closely with Rupert, using scent training to help build his confidence and overcome his fear of cars. Now he's found his forever home!

#### Sophie and Skye

Several of our centres have specialist hydrotherapy pools and dedicated veterinary physiotherapists, like Sophie at our Cardiff centre. She works with dogs like Skye to get them back on their paws and ready for a fabulous future.

#### George and Puddles

Dog School coaches like George help dogs and owners learn together and strengthen their bond. Ten years ago we had just two Dog Schools, and now we've got 110 around the UK!



Get crafty for canines with this doggy double-header. No need for a trip to the supermarket, here's how to create some mutt magic with bits you probably already have around the house.

THE STREET STREET

#### Make your own bog-roll barker

Transform your bog roll into dog roll with this loo-nique activity (sorry). Whether it's your beloved pet or a furball you've been admiring from afar, craft your very own canine from the comfort of your home.

#### You'll need:

- a toilet roll tube
- paint brush and paint (we used water colour)
- cardboard (cereal boxes work well)
- googly eyes (optional)
- marker pen
- glue (we used a glue stick)
- scissors

#### What to do:

- 1. cut out your crafty canine's tail, paws, nose, and ears from your cardboard
- 2. paint their body (the tube), paws, and tail in one colour, and the ears and nose in another.
- 3. once dried, glue on your dog's eyes, nose and ears
- 4. use the pen to draw a mouth on your dog and to add pads to their paws
- glue on your pup's paws and tail
- 6. the best part... sit back and admire your new best pal.

#### Toilet-roll rescue treat pouch

This one's for the problem-solving pooches to enjoy. Any old pup can swoop a handheld treat into the safety of their belly. But can your dog rescue one from this toilet roll trap? Our snuffle pouch is an excellent source of enrichment for your hound, and it won't cost a thing.



#### You'll need:

- a toilet roll tube
- paper or light cardboard (optional)
- your dog's favourite treat

#### How to make it:

- 1. position a couple of your dog's favourite small treats inside the tube with some scrunched up pieces of paper
- 2. flatten your tube, tightly folding over the ends
- 3. place it on the floor and let the rescue begin.



We'd love to see your bog-roll barker. Post a snap on socials and tag us @dogstrust.







If you're thinking about a new furry family member, a Lurcher or Greyhound could be the pooch for you. We rehome hundreds of these lovable long boys and girls every year, and with their graceful looks and gentle nature, it's no wonder they're among the most popular breeds adopted from us.

Not sure about a long dog? Here are some common misconceptions that could be holding you back from your new best friend.



#### Misconception: they need lots of space

Yes, Lurchers and Greyhounds are on the larger side, but that doesn't mean they need a mansion. Like all dogs, they just need space to sleep, eat, play and relax. You may need to keep an eye on the taller of these pooches, if their noses reach the table. But there are benefits too, like not having to bend over so much to clip their lead on.



#### Misconception: muzzles mean trouble

Dogs wear muzzles for all kinds of reasons. Some Lurchers and Greyhounds may have a high prey drive so need to wear a muzzle when out and about. These dogs can be friendly, confident, and love meeting new people and other dogs, although as with any dog, it's always best to ask the owner before approaching. Check out page 13 for more info about muzzles.



#### Misconception: they need loads of exercise

Despite their athletic build, Lurchers and Greyhounds don't require endless exercise. Some enjoy a good run, but many will be happy with a leisurely stroll. They're sensitive to extreme temperatures due to their thin coats, so might need a little extra care in hot or cold weather.

After their excercise needs have been met, most will be quite content snuggled up on the sofa or sprawled out on a comfy bed—they're masters of relaxation.

#### The truth about Lurchers and Greyhounds

Just like any dog, Lurchers and Greyhounds are individuals with their own personalities, likes, and dislikes. They can all make incredibly loving companions.

Some Lurchers and Greyhounds may be new to living in a home, so might need some time to adjust to household noises and basic training. Positive reinforcement and patience will help them settle in (we can help with this), and soon they'll be keeping all four paws on the ground like pros.

By adopting a Lurcher or Greyhound, you're not only gaining a loyal friend but also giving a deserving dog a second chance. Visit dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming today to start the search for your new best pal.



#### Doggelgangers

Dog lovers and celebrity enthusiasts alike, the time you've been waiting for has come once again. Welcome to the most anticipated event in Wag's annual calendar. Critics have proclaimed it 'a disaster-class in whimsy', admitted it's 'more amusing than you'd think', and asked the question on everyone's lips - 'is this actually someone's job??'.

So, sit back and relax, as we unveil this year's phenomenal parade of canine celebrity lookalikes. Presenting this year's delightful dupes, the remarkable, the uncanny, the one and only—Doggelgangers.



Cardiff's Labrador cross Twirl may not be a Hollywood A-lister or have a love for second-hand baths. But what she lacks in oddball appeal, she makes up for in love and affection. Could you cast this loving pup in your next forever home movie?





Bunny's wiggly bum and wagging tail could certainly make for an epic workout class or two, but this calm and loving pup is no scream queen. Could you be everything, everywhere, all at once for this West Calder resident?



Freedom's 20th anniversary.

Over the past 20 years, we've supported over 2,500 owners to find freedom from domestic abuse by offering a temporary foster home for their dogs while they get to safety. Without our incredible foster carers, we wouldn't be able to offer this life-saving service.

We recently caught up with Catherine, who's fostered four dogs for Freedom so far, and isn't showing any signs of stopping.

Catherine explains, "I first became aware of Freedom on social media. I had no idea of the impact of domestic abuse on dogs, and when I found out I knew that I wanted to help."

When Catherine and her husband Tommy got their first foster dog, it was love at first sight. "Our first foster dog was a beautiful Siberian husky who we instantly fell head over heels for.

Initially she seemed terrified of men and wouldn't go anywhere near Tommy. When taking her on walks we would do things like crossing the road if a man was walking towards us. By giving her the space she needed, slowly but surely, we were able to show her that she didn't need to be fearful. And she soon developed a great bond with Tommy. Helping her on her journey to a happier life was so heartwarming.

Saying goodbye to her was hard and we shed quite a few tears, but it also felt good knowing she was going back to her family who were now safe and settled."

When we asked Catherine about the benefits of fostering with us, she had this to say: "It gets you out of the house every day, no matter what the weather, and you get a lot of great exercise walking the dog. When out walking, more people talk to you, so it becomes quite a social thing. And it gives you a sense of purpose, knowing that you're helping a family by keeping their dog safe and loved."

But the most rewarding thing for Catherine? "Gaining a dog's trust after everything they've been through.

We give our foster dogs the best life we can. It only takes a few days for them to begin settling into a calming home environment. They are walked in woodland every day and we will do all we can to cater for their every need. Most importantly, we show them that they are loved. It melts our hearts when we see that they love us as much as we love them."

If Catherine, or any of our foster carers, need any help or advice with the dogs, our Freedom team are always on hand to help. Catherine says, "The team are so helpful. If I need a quick response, I just call or WhatsApp them and someone always responds. The behaviour support has been invaluable for tips on behaviour and training. Especially for the Collie we fostered who struggled with having a harness on. I followed the training guidance Jodie showed me, and after around 10 days, I was able to get a harness on him without too much fuss. It's such a weight off my mind knowing that the support is always there."





Catherine says, "If you're thinking about fostering for Freedom, absolutely go for it. You'd not only be helping the dogs, but also their families escape domestic abuse. The whole process is so rewarding, from getting a temporary furry friend to fill your life with joy, to helping them feel safe, settled, and able to be their true selves.

Dogs Trust provides everything you need for the dogs, including paying for any veterinary treatment. A 24-hour emergency service means you can call for advice any time of the day or night. And did I mention you get to hang out with dogs??"

If you have space in your heart and home for a temporary best pal, and want to help dog owners to find freedom from domestic abuse, head over to dogstrustfreedom.org.uk for more information today.

Together, we can help dogs and humans get the Freedom they deserve.

**Dogs Trust** 



Your legacy can help provide

the medical care, training,

and loving environment to

transform the lives of dogs

By including a gift in

your will, your love for

dogs lives on, and we

can give every dog the

second chance they

like Blue.

deserve.

#### How your love of dogs lives on through a gift in your will

Every dog deserves a chance at a happy, healthy life. Blue, a gentle German Shepherd, shows how a gift in your will can give dogs that chance.

In April 2023, Blue was among four German Shepherds that came to us in poor condition after having been neglected. They were brought to Evesham rehoming centre and were all anxious and unfamiliar with the outside world.

Blue was the most terrified, and really struggled with kennel life. Our expert vets put him on medication to help ease his anxiety and our dedicated training team worked hard to gain his trust. The

> training barn at our Evesham centre, funded by legacy giving, was a safe space for Blue to learn and instrumental in his rehabilitation. Slowly but steadily his confidence began to grow.

In February 2024, Blue was finally ready to find a forever home. He met a family and they immediately fell in love. Understanding his medical and behavioural needs, they worked closely with our team. After a successful home trial, Blue was officially adopted in April 2024 and is now thriving in his new home, a testament to the dedication and love he received in our care thanks to gifts in wills.

If you have any questions about how to leave a gift in your will to us, please visit our website dogstrust.org.uk/giftsinwills or email us at legacyinfo@dogstrust.org.uk and we'll be happy to help.

To request your free guide to gifts in wills, please complete this form and send it to **FREEPOST DOGSTRUSTL** (no stamp required)

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From time to time we would like to send you exciting updates about our work, products, services and how you can support us, including fundraising activities and research by post. If you'd rather not receive these mailings, please tick here  $\Box$ 

In order to communicate with you more effectively, better understand your preferences and ability to support our work, we may analyse your data. We do share your information within the Dogs Trust Group; currently Dogs Trust Worldwide, Dogs Trust Ireland and Dogs Trust Promotions. To read our full privacy policy visit dogstrust.org.uk/privacy.





A dog is for life® dogstrust.org.uk



There are many reasons a dog might wear a muzzle. Sometimes they're a safety measure for dogs who've been known to show aggressive behaviour in some situations, or dogs who've learnt to chase and catch. But that's not the only reason. For a dog who eats everything they find, a muzzle could be a lifesaver if it stops them swallowing something harmful. If a dog is in pain or ill, a muzzle can ensure a vet can provide care more safely. And some dogs may not need a muzzle for any other reason than they are required to wear one by law.

Ultimately, muzzles help keep us, our dogs, and those around us, safe. So, if you see a dog with a muzzle on, you know their owner is being responsible and looking out for others.

#### Do dogs mind wearing muzzles?

A muzzle could be scary or frustrating for your pooch if they aren't introduced to it in a gradual, positive way. But with reward-based training, dogs can learn to be confident wearing a muzzle in the same way they learn to wear a collar or harness. Once your dog is happy to wear their muzzle, they'll have just as much fun on walks and enjoy their time outdoors like any other dog.

But be aware that a muzzle won't make your dog feel safer or change the way they respond to situations or triggers. You'll still need to avoid things that worry them as much as you can, and seek help from a qualified trainer or behaviourist to help them overcome their worries.

There are lots of types of muzzles — choose one that fits comfortably and that your dog can eat, drink and pant through, like a basket type muzzle.

#### How do you train a dog to wear a muzzle?

Training your dog to wear a muzzle takes time and patience. Before you ever put it on, you'll need to build a positive association with the muzzle and show your dog it's nothing scary. Then you'll need to help them gradually get comfortable with putting their nose inside the muzzle and build up to fastening the straps. Once your dog is relaxed and confident, you can leave the muzzle on for increasing periods of time, making sure it's always fun and positive for them.

For a step-by-step guide to training your dog, search for muzzle training on our website or scan the QR code.

Through our Dog School, we offer tailored muzzle training in one-hour sessions, face-to-face or virtually. Discounts are available for owners of American Bully XL type dogs and low-income households. Find out more on our website.







Registered Charity Numbers 1167663 & SC053144. Co. Ltd 09365971



For Pat and Dave, falling in love with our dogs has happened not ootion advisor Erin with Gizmo once, but three times.

"We'd adopted from Dogs Trust before and wanted to help an older, overlooked dog," say Pat and Dave.

The couple came across an older boy called Hector at their local centre in Kenilworth. "We thought we wanted a smaller dog, but we fell in love when meeting him," says Pat.

Hector was scared of lots of things and hadn't had the best life so far. "We learned all the ways to support Hector with the centre's help. At first, he wouldn't turn round on walks and now we know how to help him," says Dave.

Later in the year, the couple thought Hector may like a friend after seeing him play with other pups during walkies. "We saw Gizmo on the website and knew the centre would take the time to work out if it was right."

A stray from Ireland, Gizmo was a very nervous chap who'd been at the centre for over six months. He came into our care after struggling to cope with the loss of another dog in his home. He needed a new best friend to help him feel safe, and Pat and Dave thought that could be Hector.

> Over a few weeks, they attended training sessions at the centre, learning more about what makes Gizmo happy, how to use his muzzle, and how he likes to meet people.

They adopted Gizmo on the last day of 2023 and he quickly became inseparable with Hector. "We set up a few beds in different rooms so they could have space, but they always wanted to be in the same room."

Pat and Dave say our support has helped them give their pups the best life possible. "There's a huge support network and you're never alone."

They add, "We've given them time and kindness as they figure things out. I think that's the best thing we can give to dogs."

#### **John Dawson**

Our fosterers go above and beyond, giving dogs shortterm loving homes while we find their perfect match. One fosterer making a difference at our Glasgow centre is John Dawson.

Since 2021, John's fostered 20 dogs that were struggling in kennels or needing extra help. "I've fostered many breeds, from Pugs to Great Danes. My shortest foster was four hours, and my longest was seven months." says John. "It means a lot to give dogs a great home for what could be the hardest part of their life and get them ready for a new chapter."

One of John's befriended pups is Jupiter, who's been with us for three years. John and our centre staff gave Jupiter all the time and space he needed to feel safe with John. After a couple meets, he took Jupiter home on a weekend trip to give him a break from kennels and get to know him better.

By getting to know Jupiter in a home environment and passing that information on to our canine carers, John has helped us determine the home he needs.

Our Glasgow Home from Home team says, "We're so happy to have John as a foster carer. So many dogs have benefitted from his love, care, and training."





A massive thank you to all the human heroes making a difference in the lives of our dogs. Contact your local centre today to get involved.



I do cry when saying goodbye. It's mixed emotions as the doggies have found a forever home, which is the goal!

#### **Nick Munro**

Nominee for Petplan's 2024 'Volunteer of the Year', Nick Munro is a shining example of the everyday heroes doing their all for the pups in our care.

After retiring in 2019, Nick saw his local rehoming centre's hard work first-hand and wanted to help.

"When we adopted two dogs from Dogs Trust Shrewsbury, I was so impressed by what the team do to help dogs. When they passed away, I knew I wanted to help," says Nick.

As a Volunteer Canine Assistant, Nick spends two mornings a week at the centre helping with long walks, playtime and kennel duties."I love getting to walk dogs of all ages, sizes, and personalities. It's so lovely to see them go to their forever home. I also love giving attention to dogs taking longer to find their perfect family." says Nick.

Nick is so dedicated to his pooch pals that he even spent the morning of his 60th birthday at the centre.

Volunteer Co-ordinator, Helen Downing, says, "Nick has a kindness with dogs that can't be taught. He can build trust with any dog. When we have a dog who needs that special person, we go to Nick. We know it's a good day when he walks in!"

**Dogs Trust** 



Annie Rawlinson, and her alter ego Brewski the dog, have taken part in many runs all over the UK to raise pounds for our hounds.

Her first big run happened during the pandemic, when she did the virtual London Marathon as laps of her garden dressed as Brewski. Brewski went on to run the London Marathon for real the following year, and then the London Landmarks Half Marathon, as well as all kinds of other runs in between. But Annie's biggest challenge to date was yet to come.

As she turned 60, Annie decided to put down the Brewski costume to take on the Rat Race Run Britannia. This challenge saw Annie run an astonishing 1,030 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats over five weeks. This truly is an incredible achievement, and she did it while keeping a count of all the 'doggos' along the way, reaching an impressive 1,212 dogs.

We're so grateful for Annie's (and Brewski's) kind support over the years. She's raised an incredible amount to help the many dogs in our care. Keep on running, Annie!

#### **Inspired by Annie?**

Get involved! We've got charity places in upcoming runs across the UK:

- Great North Run, Newcastle
- Cardiff Half Marathon
- Royal Parks Half Marathon, London
- Brighton Marathon
- London Landmarks Half Marathon
- Great Manchester Run
- London Marathon
- Edinburgh Marathon Festival (Full, Half, 10k, 5k)
- Scottish Half and Scottish 10k, Edinburgh

If you're interested in any of these, or you've already signed up, join Team Dogs Trust by contacting fundraisewithus@dogstrust.org.uk

All Dogs Trust runners will receive a free running vest.

#### Little and arge dog of the issue

Pip the Chihuahua earned his name after being found nestled inside an apple as a puppy. First thought to be just another tiny seed, Pip has since revealed that he is, in fact, a real life doggo - with a hankering for healthy snacks. We're still not convinced he's not an apple seed, but either way, this little Pip is cute to the core.

We know what you're thinking. This is Dogs Trust, not Cows Trust. Meet Molly Moo, our resident cow-dog, the first of her kind. Okay, she's actually a three-year-old Great Dane. But don't tell her that. Majestic Molly came into our care after facing allegations of 'eating all the food in the fridge.' In an effort to clear her name, Molly assures Wag that she was simply 're-organising things,' and we believe her.





#### You'll need

- ½ an apple, grated or chopped finely
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 100g self-raising flour
- 100g oats
- 1 ripe banana, mashed
- 120ml oat or soya milk (unsweetened)

#### For the topping

- 2 potatoes, mashed
- Peanut butter (xylitol free)
- Small dog biscuit

#### What to do

- 1. Preheat your oven to 200°C.
- 2. Mash or blend the banana and milk together.
- 3. Combine the flour, oats, apple and cinnamon with the banana mixture.
- **4.** Spoon evenly into your muffin tray and bake for 10-15 minutes.
- **5.** Meanwhile, mix the mashed potato and peanut butter for the topping.
- 6. Once golden, take your cakes out of the oven and let cool.
- 7. Top each cake with some mashed potato using a spoon or piping bag.
- **8.** Add a biscuit to each cake, and voila! you're ready for your pooch party.



Top tip:
use an appropriately
sized biscuit for
your individual pup.
You may need to chop
your cake up before
feeding to them.

When making these treats, reduce your dog's usual food portion so that they're not overfed. If you're concerned about giving your dog new foods, speak to your vet before baking.

## Ready for adventure?

#### Do you love going on adventures with your four-legged friend?

Exploring new places can benefit you and your dog, with different sights and sounds for you both, and new smells to stimulate your dog's senses. It doesn't have to be a mountain hike, a pootle through the woods can be just as joyful. Whatever you like doing, quality time with your pooch is what dog ownership is all about.

For the dogs in our care, an enriching escapade can be even more important. That's why our staff, like trainer Ross from our Kenilworth centre, regularly take dogs like Dexter for off-site adventures.

Over the past three years, we've worked with MINI to inspire the nation's dog owners to explore more places with their own Adventure Dogs. And earlier this year, they gave us a new MINI Countryman so that Labrador cross Dexter could travel in comfort and style to his exciting woodland walks.

Underdog Dexter has been at our Kenilworth centre for around two years, so fun outings like this give him a break from kennel life, with lots of new sights and smells to enjoy, and a new place to practise his training.

At the time Wag went to print, Dexter was still looking for his forever home. He needs an adult-only family who can commit to his ongoing training and offer him his next big adventure. If that could be you, visit dogstrust.org.uk/kenilworth



# Spreading festive joy to all



#### This winter, you can create magic for a dog (and their owner) facing homelessness by donating to our Together Through Homelessness Christmas parcel service.

Many of us can't imagine the holidays without our furry companions by our side. But for over 300,000 people experiencing homelessness, their dog might be their only family.

That's why we're on a mission to deliver festive cheer through our Christmas parcel service – every winter we deliver parcels filled with warm dog coats, cosy toys, and yummy treats to homelessness services across the country.

Your donation, no matter the size, will bring festive joy to a dog and their loving owner.

Remind dogs and owners facing homelessness that they're not alone during the holidays at **dogstrust.com/spreadjoy** 

### **Famous** friends

At Dogs Trust, we're incredibly fortunate to have so many wonderful supporters (like you!) who make our work possible. Among them, we count a few famous faces you might recognise.



#### Our Patron, His Majesty The King

Earlier this year we were honoured to welcome His Majesty The King as our new Patron, continuing the tradition of royal support for our mission since Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became our Patron in 1980. The King's lifelong passion and affection for dogs is clear for all to see, and we're so glad to have his support.

#### **Our Ambassadors**

We're thrilled to announce some very special Ambassadors, whose kind support will help us be there for even more dogs and dog lovers in the UK and round the world. Say hello to Clare Balding CBE, Jacquie Beltrao, Charlotte Hawkins, Eamonn Holmes OBE and Pete Wicks! We talked to them about their love of dogs and why they support us.

#### Clare Balding CBE

Broadcaster and writer



"My family have been supporters of Dogs Trust, and advocates of rescue dogs, for many years, partly as one of the Dogs Trust rehoming centres is near my family home in Berkshire. I am always keeping an eye on the dogs that come onto the charity's website, just in case I see a lovely potential next dog for my wife Alice and I. They

bring so much joy into your life, and we miss our Tibetan Terrier, Archie, who died in 2020 so much.

I recently presented 'Lost Dog, Found Dog' on Channel 5, which tells the incredible stories of some of the nation's dogs and their families. It filmed at Dogs Trust Basildon and their training barn was transformed into a TV studio! It was so lovely to meet so many dogs and the amazing staff there. I am full of admiration for the work Dogs Trust do across the UK to support dogs and their owners."

#### Jacquie Beltrao

Former Olympian turned sports presenter

"My first dog from Dogs Trust was called Maddie, a Westie cross. Back in 2005, she was originally at Dogs Trust's rehoming centre in Merseyside but the charity was in the process of opening its new centre in West London, Maddie made the journey down south, and

centre in Harefield.



In total, I have had three wonderful companions from Dogs Trust. Sadly, Maddie died during lockdown, but I currently have Ted. a Bichon cross, and Lilv. a Havanese. Friends say I am a crazy dog lady but my dogs have helped me through chemo and made me feel loved on the bleakest of days. I will always do

#### **Charlotte Hawkins** Presenter and journalist

what I can to help Dogs Trust."



"I have always been a huge supporter of Dogs Trust. They offer a lifeline to dogs when they need it most, by rehoming them and giving them another chance of happiness with a new family.

I know how much joy a rescue dog can bring, but also through my job I have seen the challenges that come with dog ownership, and particularly with the number of people who've got a dog for the first time over the last few years. It's vital for owners to be responsible and be in control of their dogs, and that's why I'm keen to help raise the profile of Dogs Trust's Dog School classes and website advice, as well of course as their brilliant rehoming centres."

#### Eamonn Holmes OBE Broadcaster and journalist



"Jacquie Beltrao invited me to attend the celebrations for Dogs Trust Harefield's 5th birthday and while we were there I completely fell in love with a little dog called Maggie. By the time I went back to see about adopting her,

she'd already gone. I was gutted. We went back to Harefield another time and couldn't believe it when Maggie walked in the door. Her adopter hadn't been able to keep her and had brought her back. It was meant to be!

I'm a great advocate of "adopt don't shop" and if you can't be good and kind to an animal. what is your purpose in life?! Our dog Maggie has been the most wonderful gift to me and my family. She's totally transformed me and how I view animals. If you're looking for a dog, absolutely adopt. You will not regret it, they will return your love a hundred-fold."

#### **Pete Wicks**

Podcaster, author and TV presenter



"For many years, I have been part of, and aware of, the great work of Dogs Trust. Most recently, when filming my new TV show, I have seen first-hand how hard they work as a charity to rehabilitate and rehome dogs in their centres across the UK.

It has been a real privilege to have such close, unique access to something so important. To be working with Dogs Trust as an official Ambassador — alongside other supporters including their Patron, His Majesty The King — is an honour. I look forward to many more years of raising awareness for this brilliant charity."



# Play our Lucky Pups Lotto and you could Win £1,000!

Every week you enter, you could win one of our 100+ cash prizes, all while helping the dogs in our care. You just need to choose five lucky numbers and we'll do the rest.

#### For only £1 per entry, you'll help dogs without a home become winners too.

Every day, more dogs arrive at our rehoming centres, alone, confused, and in need of our help.

As soon as a dog arrives, our canine carers give them a nutritious meal, a warm bath, and a cozy bed. And our veterinary and behaviour teams get to work setting them up with a unique care plan to get them ready for their forever home.

By taking part in the Lucky Pups Lotto, you'll be helping dogs get the love, care, and forever home they deserve. Because we never give up on our four-legged friends.

For more information, or to sign up, visit dogstrust.org.uk/lottery or scan the QR code.



What are you waiting for? Scan the QR code to start playing our Lucky Pups Lotto! You could win £5... £150... £350... £1,000!





BeGambleAware.org



Dogs Trust Legacy is part of the Dogs Trust Group, and the net proceeds from the lottery are used for the charitable objects of Dogs Trust. Dogs Trust Legacy is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission, account number 4639. Responsible Person: Nicholas Daniel. Promoter: Dogs Trust Legacy, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ. Registered Charity Numbers 227523 & SC037843. This lottery is only open to residents of Great Britain. You must be 18 years or over to enter. Full T&C's apply please visit our website dogstrust.weeklylottery.org.uk

#### Catalogue

Are you mutts about dogs and shopping? Zoom over to dogstrustgifts.com, where you'll find pawfect presents for friends, family and fur babies. Every purchase helps towards the care of thousands of stray and abandoned dogs.



#### **Patrick Polar Bear Dog Toy**

Patrick the Polar Bear is extralarge, extra soft, and giggles when cuddled. Your pooch will love snuggling into this fluffy friend. Size: 280 x 335mm.

£13.99



#### Lily's Kitchen

Our friends at Lily's Kitchen are continuing to spread festive joy for our furry friends this year with their Christmas range for dogs. Lily's Kitchen will be making a donation from the sale of products in the range, so pooches can enjoy a yummy Christmas dinner while helping dogs in need. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/lilyskitchen

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#### **Our partners**

Looking for simple ways to support the dogs in our care? Check out these hound-helping offers from our pooch-loving partners.



#### World's Best **Dog Mum Socks**

Cotton-rich, cosy and covered in canines, these socks are the ideal gift for dog mums. Adult shoe size: 4 to 8.

£5.99



#### Ruggable

Support our work with a stylish yet practical addition to your home, with Ruggable's 'Dog Trusted, Dog Lover approved' capsule collection of washable rugs - perfect for muddy paws or accidents when toilet training. 10% of each purchase helps us care for and rehome dogs. Shop the collection at dogstrust.org.uk/ruggable

#### **Hush Puppies**

Hush Puppies' Back to School range is helping our dogs get back on their paws with a donation from every pair of shoes sold. Every step taken in a Hush Puppies school shoe is a step closer to finding homes for dogs in need. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/hushpuppies



#### PAW Patrol x Character.com

PAW Patrol and Character.com have teamed up with Dogs Trust to make sure no job is too big and no pup is too small - or too big! - for Dogs Trust to support. With a PAW Patrol-themed clothing range, 20% of the sales will be donated to Dogs Trust to help care for all the paws in need. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/pawpatrol



#### **Dogs Trust A4 Calendar 2025**

#### Our best-seller.

Show your support with this practical month-to-view calendar. Featuring real heartwarming stories of the dogs we've helped, with plenty of room for notes and reminders too. Get yours today and start planning your doggy-est year yet. Open size: 297 x 240mm.

250476 £5.99

#### **Special Selection Card Pack 2024**

Get your paws on our **best-selling cards** with this special selection box. Each pack contains one each of 15 cards from this year's collection.

15 cards £7.99 30 cards £13.98 Buy two packs and save £2.00!



#### Peanuts Be Happy Bag

A very handy foldaway reusable shopper with matching clip-on pouch for your handbag. Made from recycled plastic bottles, lightweight but strong. The perfect shopper for Peanuts and Snoopy fans. Size: 380 x 330mm.



£9.99





Wag 🖖 2024

**Dogs Trust** 

# School for reactive dogs

Is your pooch fearful of other dogs? Do they bark at other dogs when on a lead? Or do you struggle to get them to focus on you around other four-legged friends?

Our reactive Dog School can help you and your dog overcome these challenges, together.

#### What's included?

Across six sessions, you'll get:

- a 1-2-1 class giving you and your dog an opportunity to learn basic skills and prepare for group sessions, with personalised help from one of our skilled coaches
- an introductory group session including a Q&A, course outline, and the chance to meet other dog owners facing similar issues
- four more weekly group classes, with up to three other doggie classmates.

#### What will you learn?

Slowly and safely, we'll help your dog feel calmer and more relaxed around other dogs and teach you emergency techniques to use in challenging

In class, you'll learn:

- why your dog reacts the way they do
- techniques to reduce their reactivity around other dogs
- how to teach your dog to walk calmly and keep focus while on the lead
- most importantly, how to make walks enjoyable for you and your pal.

#### **Our standalone 1-2-1 class**

If you think a 1-2-1 session might suit you and your pup better, you can now sign up to a standalone 1-2-1 reactive Dog School class.

#### Are 1-2-1 classes for you?

Our booking team will help you decide whether 1-2-1 classes are the right choice for you and your pup. Classes cover the basics needed to help your dog overcome the daily challenges they face. Just you, your dog, and one of our skilled coaches.

1-2-1 classes work well for dogs who aren't quite ready for a group environment. They'll suit you if you can't commit to a six-week course, or a venue that might not be convenient for you. Unlike group sessions, our 1-2-1 classes can take place at any of our venues.

Our six-week reactive dog package costs £135. One standalone 1-2-1 class is £70. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/reactive

If you can't afford the classes, please get in touch. We offer discounted classes so every dog and owner can get the support they need.



As well as improving the lives of dogs in the UK, our mission takes us around the world to help dogs in need. We run and support projects on five continents, working with local organisations to address the dog welfare issues that most need our help.

We work with local partners on projects that tackle the most serious issues in their countries and communities, including vaccination, neutering, veterinary training, education in schools and community outreach.

We're currently supporting projects in Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Serbia, USA, Canada, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Ecuador, Guatemala and more. By sharing our knowledge, we're helping to make big, sustainable changes to dog welfare.

Here are just a few of the amazing projects we support to change dogs' lives around the world. To find out more about our international work, visit dogstrust.org.uk/about-us/global





#### **Mission Rabies**

A key focus of our work is rabies prevention. Rabies isn't present in the UK, but in other countries it still kills thousands of people and millions of dogs every year. Dog bites are the main way people catch rabies, and once they do, there's no cure. So, vaccinating dogs is the most effective way to stop the disease. In 2023, we merged with Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) and Mission Rabies, so we can make even more difference in the fight against the disease.

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

We've been working in Bosnia for 10 years, running neutering campaigns, veterinary training, Dog Schools and more. We've helped local authorities implement animal welfare law and solve the roaming dog problem. Our work there has created a model for animal welfare programmes in eastern Europe that could improve the lives of millions of dogs.

#### **Thailand**

In Greater Bangkok, we work with Soi Dog Foundation to run Catch Neuter Vaccinate Return (CNVR) programmes, through which dogs are safely caught, neutered and vaccinated, and then returned to their communities. Since 2016, we've helped neuter and vaccinate over 330,000 dogs in the area, which has been really successful for reducing the roaming dog population and tackling disease.



# Readers



Proving that you're never too old to get a second chance at life is a 15-year-old Miniature Poodle, Tipsy. He's surprised his new family with his energy levels, still loving playing with his favourite ball. Of course. as an older gentleman, he also enjoys relaxing on the sofa. His owner, Peter, said, "We'd urge any potential adopters to consider opening up your hearts and homes to an oldie - it's so rewarding, and they give so much back in love, companionship and fun".

#### **Echo of Leeds**

This shiny stunner is Echo who was rehomed by Beth when she was just 10 weeks old. She loves a cuddle on the sofa but is also a secret rocket, reaching great speeds when she's in full flow. When she's not giving Usain Bolt a run for his money, she enjoys meeting new friends to play with and tucking into her favourite treats. Life sounds pretty perfect for Echo.

#### **Duke of Liverpool**

Handsome Duke was rehomed by Christine at just one year old. As Christine says, "He's brought me so much joy, laughter and companionship. Although timid, he still loves his games of fetch and is much loved. I can't imagine my life without him now".



#### In memory of Dexter

Dexter was a gentle soul who adored meeting people and other dogs on his travels. He especially loved to be by the canals, so his owners Paul and Anthony moved onto a narrowboat. They documented Dexter's journey on their YouTube channel, where he had followers from all over the world. When he passed away at the grand age of 16 and a half, Paul and Anthony set up a JustGiving page in his memory and have already raised over £4,000 for our dogs, thanks to their generous viewers. They said, "Dexter brought us so much joy. Our lives really did change for the better the moment he walked through the door. We'd like to honour his memory by helping dogs in need."













#### **Maisie of Salisbury**

Looking justifiably pleased with herself is Labrador Maisie. She's been training every week and has just won the award for the 'most improved' dog in her class. She's seen here proudly showing off her trophy. Congrats Maisie and her humans, Pat and Dave. Give her a treat and some fuss from us.



#### Rosie and Sox of Loughborough

These two beauties were rehomed by Angela and John on Valentine's Day last year. It turned out to be a very appropriate day as they immediately stole the whole family's hearts, bringing so much joy. These six-year-old half-sisters very quickly made themselves at home, and when they're not out on long country walks, their favourite pastime is sitting on the windowsill and watching the world go by.



#### **Bella and Coco of Glasgow**

You'd never guess it by their youthful looks, but Bella and Coco are actually golden oldies. Aged 11 and 14, we don't think they look a day over six.



For the chance to see your dog featured in the next issue, send your high-resolution pooch pictures to wag@dogstrust.org.uk



# You're the nero dogs like Molly desperately need.

You don't need to wear a cape to be a hero. You just need a big heart. Will you be a hero for a dog like Molly?

Molly was found dodging cars on a busy road, terrified and all alone without a safe place to go. With no one to look after her, she must have felt so lost.

Thankfully, a kind passerby managed to rescue Molly and contacted the local dog warden. But under the dog warden's care in Northern Ireland, Molly's future was uncertain. Legally in Northern Ireland, dogs are only held for five days — if no one claimed Molly by then, she was at risk of being put to sleep. It was a race against time. Would someone come to rescue Molly?

Thanks to you, we were able to collect Molly from the pound and get her to safety. Because of your generosity and support, our transfer drivers can rescue dogs from pounds and bring them to our rehoming centres where they can start a new life.

#### Dogs like Molly are facing uncertain futures in pounds right now. Your gift of £25 could help save them.

Once Molly arrived at our rehoming centre, our staff could see she was showing signs of stress and was gaining weight unexpectedly. Fearing for her health, she was rushed to our vet team. To our surprise and relief, Molly wasn't ill at all – she was pregnant!

It's unimaginable how many dogs end up alone in pounds without a hero to rescue them - some of which could be pregnant, just like Molly.

Your continued support meant our canine carers could immediately prepare somewhere safe for Molly to give birth, and space for the expectant family in our quiet puppy block. Molly soon gave birth to nine beautiful puppies.

Will you be a hero for more dogs like Molly?
Donate today by visiting dogstrust.org.uk/hero





By donating £25 today, you'll help rescue more dogs like Molly and her pups from desperate situations.

It took an entire team of human heroes to ensure Molly and her pups were given a safe and happy future. From the passerby who first rescued her, to the transfer driver who brought her to safety, to the canine carers and vets who provided essential medical care and comfort.

Each person played a crucial role in Molly's journey, including you. None of this would've been possible without your support.



Your kindness and generosity means the world to every dog you help rescue. Thank you.







#### Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate to Dogs Trust

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Dogs Trust from the tax you pay for the current tax year. In order for us to Gift Aid your donations please ensure you tick and date the box below

ensure you tion and date the box betown		
Tick here		
Date:		
I wish to Gift Aid this donation and any donation I make in the future or have made in the past fou years to Dogs Trust.		

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please note your address is required to identify you as a current taxpayer.

#### Please notify Dogs Trust if you:

- 1. Want to cancel this declaration.
- 2. Change your name or home address.
- 3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your Income and/or Capital Gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

We will use the information you provide to process your donation and may also contact you with updates on our work, products, services, and ways to support us. If you would like to receive these updates by email and/or phone, please fill in your details:

Email:				
Phone:				
If you would prefer not to receive a thank you letter, tick here.				

We treat your personal information with care and respect your privacy. Whilst we do share your information with Dogs Trust and its subsidiaries, your personal information is never shared with third parties for their own marketing purposes. It may be processed on our behalf by carefully selected partners. For more information about how we look after and analyse your data, please visit dogstrust.org.uk/privacy

You can change your preferences at any time by visiting dogstrust.org.uk/keepintouch or emailing wag@dogstrust.org.uk

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#### Yes, I will be a hero for dogs like Molly

To send a much-appreciated gift, please complete the form below and return it in the Freepost envelope provided or address an envelope to Freepost DOGFORLIFE. Or to donate online, visit dogstrust.org.uk/hero

If you live outside of the UK, please complete and return the form below to **Dogs Trust**, **Clarissa Baldwin House**, 17 Wakley Street, **London**, EC1V 7RQ, England.

Source: 900080

Your details:

Title:
First Name:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode:
Supporter No. (if known):
I'd like to give a gift of:
☐ £10 towards tasty treats, helping keep dogs calm and nourished before they start their journey to safety in a dog ambulance.
■ £25 to help keep dog ambulances kitted out with bedding and equipment, so dogs like Moll are safe and comfortable while travelling.
☐ £50 towards the running of heat lamps used in special puppy blocks, to keep dogs like Molly and her pups safe and warm.
■ £100 to fuel a dog ambulance so it can bring even more dogs like Molly to safety, before it's too late.
□ Other £
I would like to donate by:
Cheque/postal order — please make payable to 'Dogs Trust' and write your supporter number on the back (this can be found on your letter).
☐ Debit/credit card ☐ CAF card
Cond
Card no:
Valid from: / Expiry: /
Issue no (Switch/Maestro only): Cardholder's name (as printed on the card):
Cardifolder 5 flame (as printed on the Card).
Signature:
Date:
*****

Donations will go to Dogs Trust to be used towards the care of dogs wherever the need is greatest.

