

## URGENT APPEAL FOR SHOP VOLUNTEERS

Lifeline's two charity shops in Newcastle and Longton are a vital part of our fundraising activities, but a lack of volunteers to help staff the shops is now reaching a crisis point.

We have lots of stock, and lots of customers wanting to buy, but keeping the shops open 6 days a week is an increasing problem, and is losing the rescue a lot of money.

So this is an urgent appeal to our core supporters:  
**PLEASE** can you help for just a few hours each week?

Running a shop is a team effort and you won't be alone. You'll be working with other volunteers who can show you the ropes. It isn't all about serving at the counter (though after training, you can do this if you wish) there are items to be sorted, to be priced and to be displayed. There is dusting, vacuuming and making the tea.

Ideally we need people who can perhaps work for half a day, maybe just one day a week (you can do more if you wish!) The shop is open from 9.30am-4pm Monday to Saturday and we need at least two people on duty at all times. Doing a morning or an afternoon would be a really big help.

So if you can consider helping out, please call us on 01782 311893 for a chat and to get more details. You will get training and supervision and work alongside other animal lovers who really do make a difference. Both shops have recently been re-fitted and offer a pleasant working environment and a chance to make new friends.

**PLEASE GIVE THIS SOME THOUGHT**, and please don't assume that someone else will step forward. The last time this appeal went out to almost 1,000 people, NO ONE volunteered, everyone thought someone else would do it!

Every week Lifeline loses hundreds of pounds because we can't always stay open long enough, and we lose donations and sales. That money could be helping save little lives.



Manager Barbara Scott in the Lifeline shop at Newcastle



The Lifeline shop at Longton

## LIFELINE CALENDAR ON THE WAY

Later this year, Lifeline will be producing its first-ever calendar, on sale from the Autumn and featuring dogs from our kennels. The pictures for the calendar have been taken by volunteer ROGER ADAMS, a very talented photographer whose patience and interaction with the dogs has resulted in some stunning images

The calendar will be on sale from around October 1<sup>st</sup> at our two shops, and via our website

[www.animallifeline.org.uk](http://www.animallifeline.org.uk)

If you want to order a copy then please call us on 01782 311893 or email us at

[cassie@animallifeline.org.uk](mailto:cassie@animallifeline.org.uk) to register your name.

Price has not yet been fixed but may be around £4.99.



## THREE-LEGGED PEGGY

It is not unusual for Lifeline to have a three-legged dog, and one of the latest to come our way after a road accident is Peggy, a young Staffie cross, about one year old.

Peggy has a lovely happy nature and like most dogs with a disability, doesn't let it stop her enjoying life. Dogs adapt very easily to life on three legs and Peggy is a great little character.

She is pictured with kennel helper BRADLEY CHISHOLME, aged 12, who says Peggy is one of his favourite dogs at the kennels.

Of course Peggy is in need of a loving home... so need we say more?



When you have unwanted items, you can of course give them to Lifeline for sale in its shops, but you can also join the many people who are now supporting Lifeline via the world's most famous internet site, Ebay.

Lifeline is an approved Ebay charity and when you sell something on the site, you can specify that a percentage of the price it fetches goes directly to Lifeline - and you can Gift Aid it too if you wish, meaning we can get an additional 28 per cent from the Government and any time you buy something on Ebay, you can make a direct donation of £1 (or more) to Lifeline at the Ebay checkout. It just takes seconds.

Many of you are already helping us via Ebay, so thank you all, it really does help boost our funds. Please tell your friends too!

## TRUSTEES ELECTED

At the Annual General Meeting of Animal Lifeline, held at the White Star in Stoke in March, another successful year was reported, with some 250 dogs and puppies rescued and re-homed, and around 100 in kennels pending re-homing.

Income from donations had fallen slightly, but extra fund-raising events had helped bridge the gap, members were told.

At the meeting, existing Trustees Pat Lawton, Cassie Fletcher, Marie Martin and Janet Slater were re-elected, and a new Trustee, Terry Martin was elected.



# HOT TIME AT THE PARTY

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> was one of the hottest of the year, and that was also the day of Lifeline's garden party and Open Day at Serendipity Kennels. Scores of visitors came along to see the staff, volunteers and the dogs, and a number of potential new homes were found.

Visitors also spent money on tombola, flower stalls, refreshments, bric-a-brac and other attractions and the total raised was £610.

Many thanks to all who supported the event, and to those who spent hours of hard (and hot!) work setting it all up.

**DIARY DATES:** Our next Kennels Open Day is on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>, and our next Garden Party and Open Day is on Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>. Both events are open 2pm-4pm.



## TAKING THE BISCUIT

Liz Foster and her friend Julie Lyons (pictured) have started their own dog treat business, creating tasty home baked treats with top quality ingredients, and they chose Lifeline dogs to test out the products!

As part of a BBC Radio Stoke feature, the Lifeline dogs 'consumer tested' the treats and they were a great success. The treats were also on sale at a recent kennels open day, for which Lifeline received a donation from Mrs Twee's Dog Bakery, as the company is titled.

The treats are made from 100 per cent natural and human grade ingredients with nutritional benefits and natural flavours.

Further details at [www.mrstweesdogbakery.co.uk](http://www.mrstweesdogbakery.co.uk)

## STAFFIES NEEDING HOMES

We currently have around 20 Staffies or Staffie-crosses in kennels and needing new homes.

These dogs get a bad Press, but most make lovely pets and do not have any temperament issues. They have often been handed to us by owners who wanted a Staffie for its supposed macho image, and then found the dog was too docile! We have Staffies aged between 10 months and 10 years, so there is a good choice.

One mature Staffie, Rupert, has a gentle nature, but is overlooked because he has a slight walking difficulty. He would be ideal for someone who wants a companion and he would be content to just be in the garden, not needing to be taken out for walks.

If you are interested in any of these dogs, call us on 01782 311893 or 638341.

**PLEASE NOTE: Serendipity Kennels now has new opening hours:**

9 am -12.30pm and 1.30pm -3.30pm seven days a week.

## walkies on wheels

German Shepherds and some other larger breeds can suffer a degenerative disease which affects their back legs and ultimately prevents them walking. Although there is no cure, the condition is not normally painful, in fact the legs go numb, and one option is to fit wheels to aid mobility and give your dog a new lease of life.

Jazz the German Shepherd (pictured) is a former Lifeline dog aged about 12 who has quickly adapted to walkies on wheels and loves to get out an about. A bright alert dog, she missed her walkies and when owners Cassie and Nick Fletcher fitted her with wheels, she was off so fast, they had to sprint to catch her!

The unit works by suspending the rear legs, so the weight is taken by the frame. The dog walks normally, pulling along with the front legs and still moving the rear legs, though little or no weight is on them.

There are various wheeled options available via vets or the internet. The one Jazz is using is from a Yorkshire company, Dog Mobile. Details: [www.dogmobile-online.co.uk](http://www.dogmobile-online.co.uk)



Oscar

## OSCAR AND RANGER SADLY MISSED

Regular visitors to our Serendipity Kennels near Cellerhead will have often seen two of our longest residents, OSCAR the Dalmatian and RANGER, a German Shepherd. Both were aged about 12, and both died recently within a short time of each other. We all miss them.

OSCAR had been abandoned at the kennels by the previous occupants when we took over in 2001. He had some behavioural difficulties which made him unsuitable for re-homing so he stayed with us as part of our 'family' at Serendipity.

RANGER was another dog who had behavioural problems but had a lovely nature, and he too was a long term resident who enjoyed his life at the kennels.

Both dogs received lots of love and attention from the staff and volunteers, and were regularly exercised and received the best veterinary care while they were with us.

They were great characters and their ashes will be placed in our Memorial Garden at Serendipity.



Ranger