

# ANIMAL LIFELINE NEWS

Summer 2013

www.animallifeline.org.uk

Issue No 19

Animal Lifeline, PO Box 411, Longton ST3 4SS Reg Charity No: 1041362

## GREATEST EVER DEMAND

Animal Lifeline is experiencing its busiest-ever year, with demand for us to take in abandoned and unwanted dogs stretching us to the limit. Despite rehoming around 250 dogs, scores more pour in and we still have a waiting list for kennel spaces.

Dog rescues across the UK are bursting at the seams, and in some areas the RSPCA has stopped taking in strays and unwanted dogs, saying it is having to concentrate only on abuse and welfare cases.

These issues, and other factors such as changing social patterns, with more people in rented accommodation and Government cuts in benefits, puts further strain on charities like Animal Lifeline.

"Changing times mean there is a greater need for Animal Lifeline than at any time in our 38 year history," said Cassie Fletcher, one of the charity's trustees. "We are doing everything we can to rescue and re-home more dogs, including the provision of more emergency kennels.

"We are so grateful to everyone who supports us by making donations or volunteering. Without their help it is certain many little lives would be lost."

Lifeline has also lobbied local authorities and housing associations to restrict dog-breeding in their properties, and Stoke MP Rob Ffello has raised this issue at Government level on our behalf.

"There is massive over-breeding of dogs both commercially and in back yards for quick cash, and this is contributing to the problem of stray and unwanted dogs," said Cassie Fletcher. "We urge people who want a dog to get one from a rescue kennels. There are tens of thousands of lovely dogs available across the UK from rescue groups like Animal Lifeline, dogs who have done nothing wrong. They are just victims of circumstance and deserve another chance in life."

**Lifeline plans to add a number of self-contained emergency kennels. These custom-made heated units with built-in sleeping area and covered external space cost £1,000 each and three have already been provided thanks to kind donations. If you - or perhaps a company you know of - can help provide one, in part or in full, please call us on 077790 079025. Each kennel will have an inscribed plaque with the name of the donor.**

## SLEEPING BEAUTY



This little chap fast asleep with his soft toy is Rocky, re-homed by Lifeline a few weeks ago and who obviously feels very much at home with his new owners Sandra and Maurice Bettany.

They say: "He is a lovely boy and settling in really well. He loves his home comforts and going for long walks and we cannot believe how good he is, and so well trained. Thanks for all the good work that you do."

Thanks to you, Sandra and Maurice, for giving Rocky a lovely new home.

We have lots more lovely dogs needing new homes, and just six of the 100-plus dogs we have are pictured overleaf. If you or anyone you know is thinking of having a dog, please come to our kennels and take a look.

## CHRISTMAS CARD

We hesitate to mention Christmas in mid-summer but we wanted to let you know that this year, instead of a calendar, Lifeline will be producing its own Christmas cards (pictured below) which will be on sale in packs of 10.

The quality cards are by noted artist Kate Mawdsley and embrace modern and traditional design, with an amusing illustration of two dogs singing a carol, titled 'Bark, The Herald Angels Sing.' The card has the Animal Lifeline logo and charity details on the back, as shown.

The cards, priced at £2.50 for a pack of 10, will be on sale from early September, in our charity shops in Longton and Newcastle, and on sale at our next open day and fete at our Cellarhead kennels, which is Sunday Sept 15th, 2pm-4pm. The cards will also be sold on Ebay, listed under charity cards.



## Emma's Epic Walk

Emma D'sylva has completed an epic sponsored walk, trekking all 177 miles of Offa's Dyke, accompanied by her dog Skye, and raised around £850 for Animal Lifeline.

Emma, 23, lives at Stanfields, Stoke on Trent and is a volunteer dog walker at Lifeline's Cellarhead kennels. She and Skye camped out during the walk, which took almost two weeks.

"I wanted to make the walk a little different, and so I chose Offa's Dyke," said Emma.

"I started from Chepstow and finished at Prestatyn and crossed the England and Welsh border over 20 times en route."

"The journey had its ups and downs both in regards to hills and emotions. We had some really cold and wet days but there were also some nice sunny days. Carrying our heavy packs and finding decent places to wild camp was hard but we persevered with the knowledge that we were helping all the dogs at Animal Lifeline.

"I'd like to thank all the people and businesses that sponsored us, especially Ruffwear who provided Skye with some great kit for the trip, and CSJ who gave Skye dog food for the trip as well as providing me with a jacket, polo shirt and cap and letting us camp on their lawn on our final night.

"Overall it was a challenging trip but well worth it when I see all those furry faces that we've helped. Hopefully one day they'll all get to go on adventures with a family of their own."

A spokesman for the Lifeline Trustees said "We congratulate Emma - and of course Skye - for a fantastic effort. It was a physically demanding journey which required courage and determination, and we are so grateful to Emma taking it on. It marks her out as someone very special."

## NEW HOMES NEEDED



Shadow



Troy



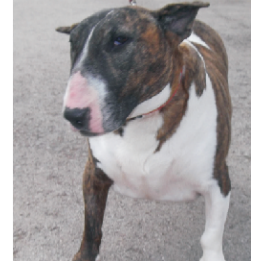
Ronnie



Sheba



Tom



Sophie

These lovely dogs are just a tiny sample of over 100 in our kennels, and they all need loving new homes. They can offer fun, friendship, love and devotion.

We have many different sizes, ages and breeds, so there is normally plenty of choice, and we try our best to meet your requirements and importantly, those of the dogs, whose background, temperament, likes and dislikes, we usually know.

## THANKS TO YOU ALL

Many people help Lifeline in all sorts of ways, and below are just a few highlights from recent weeks:

**THANKS** to MRS PAT JOHNSON of Swynnerton who generously provided two brand-new washing machines and a new dryer for the Lifeline laundry, which is in constant use providing fresh clean bedding for our dogs.

**THANKS** to Carolyn, Christabell, Lynn, Pauline, Jennifer and Mark who operated our charity auction at the Thistleberry Hotel and helped raise £943.

**Please note our next Thistleberry charity auction is on Thursday November 14th.**

**THANKS** to Ron Hampton who sent a £100 donation all the way from Florida, USA. Ron now lives in America but previously lived in Stoke on Trent and was aware of the work done by Animal Lifeline.

**THANKS** to The Pets At Home store at Longton for donating £200 - store manager DAVE AVERILL is pictured below handing over the cheque to kennel staff member Adam Woodward.



## RECORD RESULT!



An open day and fete at Lifeline's Serendipity Kennels in June was a tremendous success, raising a magnificent total of £3,534 - a record for the event.

Hundreds of visitors attended on (thankfully!) a lovely sunny day and enjoyed buying items from the stalls, having tea and home-made cakes, seeing the dogs and meeting staff and volunteers.

Many thanks to all who supported the event, and thanks also to the volunteers who spent many hours setting it all up and staffing it. Three local companies also supplied volunteer staff, Karren and Charlotte (Barclays Bank, Hanley), Helen, Harriet and Fran (Harvey's of Festival Park) who are helping raise £1,000 towards a new emergency kennel, and Alyson (Asda at Wolstanton).

### DIARY DATES:

**Next open day and fete at Serendipity kennels is on Sunday Sept 15th, from 2pm-4pm.**

**Next charity auction - Thistleberry pub, Newcastle, Thursday November 14th, 6.30 pm.**

**Next Christmas Fayre is at The Orme, Newcastle on Saturday December 7th, 1pm-3pm.**



## AGM REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of Animal Lifeline members took place on May 9th at the Thistleberry Hotel in Newcastle. Members heard that the charity had had a very successful year with over 250 dogs rescued, but that demand on its services were greater than ever. At the meeting, the existing Trustees, Pat Lawton, Cassie Fletcher and Jan Slater were unanimously re-appointed.

## EDNA CHESHIRE

Just a few days after publication of our December Newsletter, we were saddened by the death of Edna Cheshire, who was volunteer manager at our Longton charity shop. Edna, who was in her 80s, had bravely fought a long illness, yet still insisted on coming to the shop most days until just a short time before she died.

Edna was a great character, very committed to our charity, and she is sadly missed.