

ANIMAL LIFELINE NEWS

Winter 2008

Issue No 10

Animal Lifeline, PO Box 411, Longton ST3 4SS Tel: 01782 311893 Reg Charity No: 1041362

HOME SWEET HOME



Finding new and loving homes for abandoned dogs is at the heart of Lifeline activities, and despite the current gloomy economic climate, we are still having notable success in re-homing.

Not only younger dogs and puppies have been placed with caring owners, but a number of older, longer-term dogs have been taken on, which is great news.

By the end of this year, we will have homed over 200 dogs directly from our own kennels at Serendipity at Cellerhead, and scores of others from either our over-flow kennels or direct from our owner-to-owner service - people who want us to home their dog, but don't want it to come into kennels.

Details of some of the recent homings appear overleaf, and we are very happy that Mollie (pictured left) and many others are enjoying a new life in family homes.

Happy Christmas!



It seems only a few weeks since we sent out our summer Newsletter, and here we are fast approaching the end of 2008. On behalf of all the trustees, volunteers and kennel staff at Animal Lifeline, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Without your support, we could not rescue and re-home so many needy dogs, so you all play a vital part in what we achieve.

Lifeline tries not to bombard you with pleas for donations - we know you do all you can to help us - so we don't mail-shot you between Newsletters, or run constant appeals.

However, it has been a tough financial year for charities as well as individuals and if, at this special time of goodwill, you can spare a donation to help us meet the winter bills, we would be extremely grateful.

You can send cheques, payable to Animal Lifeline, to PO Box 411, Longton, Stoke on Trent ST3 4SS, or donate instantly online at www.animallifeline.org.uk via Paypal. Just click the 'Donate' button on the homepage.

If you donate food, please note we have good supplies of tinned food, but always need complete meal and dog treats.

Thanks again for your encouraging messages, donations of money, food or goods, or for your time if you are a volunteer. Be in no doubt, you DO make a difference, and there are hundreds of happy dogs who can vouch for that.

Bless you all.

HELLO & GOODBYE

After several years as manager of our Serendipity Kennels, manager Lynn Critchlow and husband Alan have retired and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication during that period. We wish them well for the future and trust they enjoy a happy retirement abroad.

Taking over as joint managers are KAREN and STEVE WOODWARD, who have been volunteers at the rescue for some time and are looking forward to taking up a new challenge.

Their arrival co-incides with a number of improvements at Serendipity. These include some new accommodation units with special insulation and heating, new, more efficient heaters in the main kennel blocks, and much general maintenance including new doors. We are grateful to Yasmin Cooper and Vodaphone, Fenton for providing volunteer labour for some of the projects, which is much appreciated.



HAPPY ENDING



Suzie is a lovely little terrier who came to Lifeline after being dumped on the M6 motorway by some mindless moron. Struck by a car, one of Susie's front legs was badly damaged and had to be amputated.

However, she is a brave and resilient little dog and was soon happily racing around the Lifeline kennels at high speed, despite having become a 'tri-pod'. She quickly adapted to life on three legs and wins everyone over with her friendly nature. We are working hard to ensure she is re-homed with someone who can provide the right environment for her needs, preferably with someone who lives in a bungalow, for instance, so she doesn't have to cope with stairs.

Susie is about 18 months old and would perhaps relate well to someone on a one-to-one basis. We'll keep you posted on how she gets on.

DOG TALES

Are YOU a member of a community or church group? If so, your group may use guest speakers so it may be useful to know that someone from Animal Lifeline is always available (often at short notice) to come along to one of your meetings and give a talk.

A talk about animal rescue is NOT a tail (sorry, tale!) of horrors but uplifting and inspirational stories of amazing dogs and happy endings! No fee is required (though the group can make a donation to Lifeline if it wishes). Why not recommend us to whoever books your group's guest speakers?

Ask them to call Nick Fletcher on 01782 311893
Or email cassie@animallifeline.org.uk

GOING, GOING, GONE

A grand charity auction was staged in November at the White Star pub at Kingsway in Stoke. This recently renovated Titanic-themed pub is run by Pam Rowlands, a Lifeline supporter formerly of the Greyhound pub at Penkhull.

The auction featured over 130 items donated by Lifeline supporters and local firms and included Royal Doulton pottery, jewellery, bric-a-brac, TV set, wine and spirits and even signed books by best-selling authors Ian Rankin and Maeve Binchy, former England cricket captain Mike Gatting and Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles.

The event was a great success, raising £846, and may become a regular event. Many thanks to all who helped on the night, and to Pam and her staff at the White Star.



Sandy



Henry

HAPPILY HOMED

The furry chums pictured here are just a small selection from the many Lifeline dogs which have been re-homed in recent weeks.

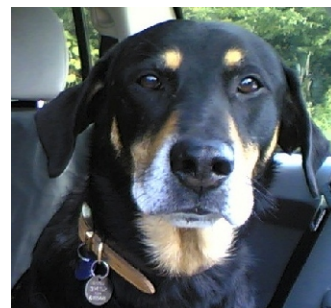
Among them were Bob and Jake, the father-and-son lurchers featured in our summer Newsletter - they were re-homed soon after, staying together as we preferred.

George, a 7 year old black and tan crossbreed with a lovely quiet nature was, despite our best efforts, constantly over-looked by visitors to our kennels. However, after several months, he has now been re-homed as a companion to another Lifeline dog and is enjoying his new life very much. Carrie, a black crossbreed, has been re-homed at Clayton, while Henry, a 2 year old Collie-cross is now in his new home at Weston Coyney.

Sandy and Andy, mature Labrador-crosses who had come together to Lifeline, were both re-homed within days of each other, one to Uttoxeter and one to Silverdale. Mollie, a Jack Russell, and Pepper, another terrier have both been re-homed locally, so too India, a bull-mastiff.

Jenny, another Jack Russell, Hope, an elegant Akita and Benji, a terrier have all been placed, and so too Maxwell a Chinese-crested crossbreed who has found a new home in Leek.

They and many others - plus a litter of TEN puppies - have all found loving owners, and created spaces for more needy dogs to be taken into our care. Some are homed quickly, others take time. While in our care, they lead happy lives, warm, well-fed, and with lots of freedom to run around at our Serendipity site and lots of love and attention from the kennel staff and team of volunteers who help out.



George



Carrie



Bob and Jake

NEWSPAPER DEBATE WINS SUPPORT

Back in the summer, some of you may have followed a debate in the Sentinel letters column about Lifeline's homing policy. Lifeline has always had what it regards as firm but fair criteria for new homes, based on what we feel is best for the dog, and over the years has publicised this extensively as part of its ongoing campaign for responsible dog ownership. Many of you reading this will have had a dog from Lifeline and will know exactly what our homing requirements are and had no problem meeting them. Some of the letters published claiming homes has been refused because people had polished floors, new carpets and in one instance, a grandfather clock were quite ludicrous. Some of them were downright untruthful and one or two malicious.

However, there were many letters published both in the Sentinel and on its website praising Lifeline for its duty of care, some from people saying they support Lifeline precisely because it has a robust homing policy.

Many people wrote letters to us and sent emails of support, urging us to stand firm and continue to take the utmost care in re-homing dogs which have often suffered and deserve to be placed in the right environment, with the most suitable owner. We just cannot please all of the people all of the time.

To those of you who contacted us with words of encouragement during the debate, thank you so much. It meant so much to us.