

# ANIMAL LIFELINE NEWS

Winter 2009

www.animallifeline.org.uk

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

## WINTER TAILS!

Another year over all too quickly! It's hard to believe that it is already 6 months since our last Newsletter - and a lot has happened since the summer.

It has been a tough period in recent months, for donations have fallen due to the recession. We have responded by increasing our own fund-raising activities, staging events such as charity auctions, open days, and, just a couple of weeks ago, a Christmas Fayre. It all helps us try to meet the shortfall.

Yet the good news is that despite that difficult financial background, Lifeline has not had to reduce the number of needy dogs it can take in. We have actually been able to rescue MORE dogs, because we are rehoming very successfully, and this frees kennel spaces for other dogs to come in. Around 60 dogs have been re-homed just in the past 15 weeks.

On page two, you can read of some of the homing successes of recent months, many of them long-termers who now have a new life with loving owners.

It is thanks to YOUR support that we can do so much.

We are running a Christmas Appeal in the local Press this month. At this time of year, more dogs need veterinary care, and the kennel heating bills rise, of course. If you can make a donation, we would be very grateful.

You can send it to the address on this Newsletter, or donate via Paypal on our website [www.animallifeline.org.uk](http://www.animallifeline.org.uk) And if you Gift Aid your donation, we get an extra 28 per cent from the Government.

**Thanks again for all your support throughout the year, and a very Happy Christmas to you all.**



## FUN OF THE FAYRE

Lifeline volunteers staged a Christmas Fayre on November 21 at The Orme Centre in Newcastle, and Santa Claus was a special guest!

The volunteers (pictured above) also wore Christmas outfits, and there were lots of different stalls, tombola, a raffle, refreshments and other activities which helped raise around £1,000.

Many thanks to everyone who gave up their time and worked so hard to make it a success.



## ON THE CARDS!

Children from the ECO Club of St John's Primary School, Wetley Rocks took part in a Christmas card project to help raise funds for Lifeline.

A special card was produced, designed by Justin Clarke and featuring a dog with a seasonal leaf-and-berry 'collar' (inset).

Printed on recycled paper, the cards were marketed and sold by the staff and pupils and all the profits are donated to Animal Lifeline. Some of the children, Jake Whiston, Eleanor Stagg and Chloe Meyrick, are pictured at the Lifeline kennels with managers Karen and Steve Woodward and (left) kennel assistant Jill Taylor.



## BECKY ON THE MOVE

When Patrick and Jeanette Braithwaite arrived at our Serendipity kennels at Cellerhead to choose a dog, they liked Becky, an 8 year old Labrador-cross, who had been with us for a couple of months. While they were still discussing the matter, Becky seized the initiative, jumped into their car and sat down, clearly indicating she had already approved of Pat and Jeanette!

Becky made herself comfortable and made it clear she wanted to go home with them, and so off they went. We have since had an email saying Becky has settled in well, is proving very devoted and has made many new friends in the neighbourhood on her daily walks.

Pat and Jeanette, who have supported Lifeline for many years and have had a previous dog from Lifeline, had travelled all the way from Kingswinford near Stourbridge.



## KENNEL HELP

Lifeline has a small but dedicated staff at its Serendipity kennels, aided by many volunteers without whose help we just couldn't manage to achieve so much.

Pictured are some of the staff and volunteers with several of our current 'residents'.

If YOU would like to volunteer for a few hours working at the kennels, located at Cellerhead, please call managers Karen and Steve on 01782 551540. We need help with cleaning, maintenance, dog walking and other tasks and you will be joining a happy team devoted to ensuring our dogs get the best quality of life while in our care.



## NO PLACE LIKE HOME



DIESEL

A wide variety of dogs have been homed recently, but none have a more miraculous story to tell than a little terrier called Hope. Trapped underground for about two weeks without anyone knowing about her, she was rescued by a million-to-one chance when an excavator digging up the road near the Keele roundabout at Newcastle bought her to the surface in its bucket. Hope - as we have since called her - was close to death, starved, dehydrated and barely conscious. She was rushed to the vets and immediate attention saved her life. When she was well enough to leave the vet, she was taken to the Lifeline kennels where she has recovered over several weeks and is now fit and well, and the great news is that she has just been re-homed!



HOPE



BRIDGET

We shall never know just how she came to be underground. She may have gone down a drain or a tunnel, we just don't know. She had a terrifying ordeal but at least this is one story with a very happy ending.

Amongst other dogs homed recently is Diesel, a handsome six-month old English Bull Terrier, who has gone to Longton. Toby, a Jack Russell aged about 3 years has been homed at Newcastle, and Troy, a young collie-cross who had been in kennels over a year, has been homed at Meir Heath.



TOBY



ROCKY

Bridget, a 7 year old Boxer-cross who had been in kennels for about two and a half years, has now been homed in Longton, one of several long-termers to find new homes recently.

Of course, we still have lots of dogs needing new homes, amongst them three who have been in kennels over a year.



TROY



SHADOW

Maggie is a greyhound/lurcher cross, about 4 years old and a little timid, who needs a one-to-one owner.

Rocky is an elderly Mastiff-cross, about ten years old, who needs someone to give him a nice comfortable home and Shadow is another long-termer, a German Shepherd aged about 8.

If you can help us with any of these dogs, or any of the dozens of others we have in our care, please call us on 01782 311893 or 638341.



MAGGIE

## SAD LOSS

It is with great sadness we report the loss of two Lifeline supporters, Pat Haley and Alison Hughes.

Pat, aged 70, and father of Lifeline Trustee Cassie Fletcher had supported Lifeline for more than 20 years and in that time, he and his family had had eight dogs from Lifeline, usually taking long-termers who perhaps would have otherwise remained in kennels. The family also raised thousands of pounds for the charity, donating valuable antique lace and linen which was sold at collector's fairs.

Pat had specified no flowers at his funeral, he preferred the money to be used to help needy dogs, and £754 was raised for Lifeline.

Alison Hughes, who lived at May Bank, was just 34 when she died from breast cancer. She and husband David had two dogs, one of them from Animal Lifeline, and a £1,000 gift was made to Lifeline in her memory.

"Alison loved the dogs. We were into walking and wanted dogs who could keep up with us. Not long before she died, she was able to do an 8-mile walk, she was that kind of person," said David. "There were 250 people at her funeral, she was so popular."

Alison has also raised money for cancer charities in the months before her death.



Big thanks to all of you who have been selling items on Ebay and donating all or part of the money to Lifeline.

We are an approved Ebay charity and if you place anything for sale on the Ebay site, you can just click the charity button and donate all, or a percentage, of the sale amount to us. It just takes a few seconds, and you can also boost the amount further if you wish by clicking the Gift Aid icon and getting us an extra 28 per cent from the Government.

It is a quick, easy way to help Lifeline, and if you haven't done it yet, why not give it a try? Just go to [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)

## MAILING LIST

We hope you enjoy receiving this twice-yearly Lifeline Newsletter, keeping you in touch with what is happening at the rescue. But if you DON'T want to receive a copy, just call 01782 311893 and leave a message on our answerphone stating your name and address, and that you wish to be removed from our mailing list.



## POSTER PLAN

This eye-catching poster is being used to help generate more donated items for sale at our two charity shops. Without donated goods, the shops could not keep going, and we need a constant supply of good quality clothes, jewellery, toys, DVDs and CDs, books, unwanted gifts and bric-a-brac.

The poster, designed by Michael Rutherford of About Turn Creative, has certainly been attracting attention and is part of our on-going fund-raising programme.

## AUCTION SUCCESS

Another charity auction was staged for Lifeline at the White Star pub in Kingsway, Stoke, courtesy of landlady Pam Rowlands.

Donated goods including wines and spirits, pottery, glassware, pictures, jewellery and watches, toys and gifts went under the hammer, along with various signed celebrity items. These included autographed items from TV presenter Gary Lineker, author and TV host Giles Brandreth, and even Prime Minister Gordon Brown! There was also a programme signed by the late Stanley Matthews, which sold for £42.

In total, £1,068 was raised.

Our thanks to all those who donated goods for us to auction, and to Pam and her staff for their help.