

STAR MAGGIE!

Many of you may have seen some of the local, national or even international coverage of Maggie, a dog who has been in our kennels for 11 years, despite many efforts to re-home her. Maggie is not a nasty dog but she can be difficult, not getting on with other dogs and often with other people.

Lifeline took her in when she was two years old – she is now 13 – and while we have repeatedly tried to find her a new home, none have been successful. Her story, reported in the local Press, went worldwide and we had people as far as the USA and Canada wanting us to ship her out to them!

The kindness and concern for Maggie (*pictured with volunteer Alex*) was amazing and she was an overnight media star! We made several further attempts to re-home her from the more local enquiries, but Maggie persisted in not engaging with potential new owners. In her own way, she was telling us she was happy and comfortable in our kennels, where she is loved and cared for by staff and volunteers.

We appreciate all the concern and good wishes for Maggie from across the globe, with many people praising us for looking after Maggie for so long, and pointing out that many agencies would have had her put down long ago.

Maggie will now stay in our sanctuary section where she will be looked after for the rest of her life by our team with whom she is familiar and content.



DOING ALL WE CAN

Animal Lifeline has been operating for 40 years, rescuing and re-homing many thousands of dogs in that time. Today, the need for our service is greater than ever, as changing social patterns mean more and more dogs are being abandoned.

People lead increasing busy lives, with no time to look after a dog. And even those who would like a dog are often in rented accommodation and cannot have one because lots of landlords do not allow dogs. Nationally, pet ownership is declining and so we and other rescue agencies are in a loop where more people are abandoning dogs and less people are wanting them.

Even so, we do all we can to save as many as we can, and we are able to do that thanks to the help given by our supporters. Though it is often a struggle for us to make ends meet, we manage to keep going because you make donations, stage fund-raising events and volunteer at the kennels and at our charity shops. Your support truly does make a significant difference and enables us to rescue and re-home many more dogs. Thank you so much. And a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all.

HAPPY ENDINGS

Many people have a dog from Animal Lifeline and later let us know how the dog is getting on, and what a difference it has made to their life. Here are some of the recent tails – sorry tales! - they have to tell:

We adopted **Sadie & Sophie** in Aug 2-3 years ago. Sadie & Sophie are twin long haired German Shepherds. We met them at a time when I was suffering badly with depression so it was like we were helping each other. Myself and my wife giving them a loving home and they giving me a reason to get up and get out each day! They changed my life for the better and I will always be grateful. They are both still doing well even if they are getting on a bit now. - *Dave and Rachel*

Suzie came initially as a foster dog but soon became part of the family. Eight years and many happy tales later she is still here and loved very much by everyone she meets. - *John*

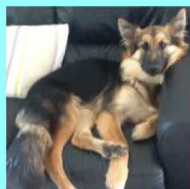
Amber came to join our family just over three years ago. From the start we realised what a beautiful young lady she was. She fitted in with our family immediately. Our other dog Molly loved her straight away. Even the cat was pleased that she had come to join our little gang. She is the most lovely natured dog ever. Our picture shows she has her very own spot on the sofa! - *Charlotte*

Rocky is the first staffy we have had and what an adorable breed they are. We have never laughed so much and he is such a lovable loyal dog. When we are out and stop for a coffee, he loves to sit on your lap like a yorkie. I knew that when I looked into Rocky's eyes at your Serendipity Kennels he was to be our new best friend. I was so right! He is sitting on the settee across from me now while I type this just waiting to go out in the car – so I had better go! - *Maurice*

It's been five and half years since we adopted **Grace**. She will be 12 this year and she's been such a loving dog, she makes us all smile, she is very active and loves being outdoors and is very adventurous. We thought it would be difficult to retrain an older dog but we've been lucky. She is very bright and adapted to us almost immediately. Everyday we feel so HAPPY and LUCKY that we got her and love her to bits, everyone takes to her and she is good with other dogs. She completes our family. - *Vincenza*



Suzie



Amber



Rocky & Maurice



Gracie



Sandie & Sophie

HOMES NEEDED



Bella

It is always difficult to select just a few of the many dogs we have in our kennels seeking new homes as they all deserve a second chance in life. Pictured are just some of the scores of dogs we have at the moment, all hoping to catch someone's eye. Maybe it will be you, or perhaps someone you know? If so, please get in touch.

Bo is a female Staffs Bull Terrier, aged 5; Joe is a Jack Russell puppy aged 20 weeks; Harry is a Collie aged 5 years; Storm is a female Husky aged 6 years; Bella is a Staffs Bull Terrier aged 4 years; Jerry is a Jack Russell puppy aged 20 weeks.



Jerry



Bo



Harry



Joe



Storm

CHARITY AUCTION

Thanks to everyone who donated items to our recent charity auction at Sneyd Green Community Hall. The event raised £800, which will be of significant help to us.

Our thanks also to all those who attended, and to the volunteer team of helpers who set up the auction, and worked hard on the night to ensure everything went smoothly.

COLLECTING PLEA

Lifeline holds regular collecting days at local supermarkets including Asda, Morrisons, and Tesco, and other places such as Trentham Gardens, and we need more collectors to help out. All you have to do is stand and smile and hold the collecting box! But if you are a little uncertain, read what Gill, one of our regular collectors has to say:

"The first time I volunteered to help on a collection I did feel a little trepidation and rather self-conscious. How silly! Within no time at all, kind people were generously dropping coins into my pot, some wanting to exchange a few words about their pets or to learn more about the rescue. The time simply flew by. So, I've been a collector ever since! Knowing that just two hours of my time earns much needed funds for the needy dogs gives me such a rewarding feeling. Why don't you give it a try for yourself?"

Over to you, folks! Just give us a ring on 07790 079 025 for more details.



MAILING LIST

To produce and send out this twice-yearly newsletter is expensive, so if you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know so we can remove you from the mailing list and save money. Or, if you are happy to receive the newsletters via email, just go onto our website www.animallifeline.org.uk and register for the electronic version. It takes only a few seconds. And please be assured that unlike some charities, Animal Life NEVER passes on or sells your data to anyone else!

Where There's a Will

Bequests are important for all charities and Animal Lifeline is no exception. Without bequests, we would not have our Serendipity Kennels, nor have been able to equip it, maintain it, nor rescue and rehome so many dogs. Benefactors making bequests - large or small - have all played a vital part in ensuring that Animal Lifeline is able to continue its rescue and rehoming work and they have directly helped save the lives of many dogs.

Lifeline - established in Stoke on Trent 40 years ago - gets no government or local authority grants. It relies entirely on its own fund-raising efforts and public donations to keep going. And apart from kennel staff, Lifeline is a voluntary group, so its income is primarily spent on the care and welfare of its dogs.

Our Wills leaflet is enclosed. Please spare a couple of minutes to read it, and please consider making a bequest. It will help ensure the dogs we all love will have someone to look after them long into the future.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE DATE

Animal Lifeline's **Christmas Fayre** will be held on **Saturday December 5th** at a new venue, the Sneyd Green Community Hall in Ralph Drive, ST1 6HN. It will be open from 2pm-4pm.

There will be lots of stalls selling gifts, toys, collectables and other items, plus delicious hand-made cakes and refreshments. Please support the event if you can.

Cut off and return to Animal Lifeline, PO Box 411, Longton ST3 4SS

I WANT TO DONATE TO THE ANIMAL LIFELINE WINTER APPEAL

Please accept this donation of £ _____ for the Winter Appeal. (Cheque payable to ANIMAL LIFELINE, please)

You can also donate instantly at our website: just click the DONATE button at www.animallifeline.org.uk

OPTIONAL: Your donation can be boosted by a further 25 per cent at no extra cost to you if you sign the Gift Aid declaration below. The extra amount is given by HMRC.

You can also make an instant £10 donation just by texting DOGS45 to 70070. We get the full donation with no deductions.

Gift Aid Declaration: I wish Animal Lifeline to treat this £ _____ donation and any future donation I make as Gift Aid.

SIGNED: Date:

Name:..... Address:.....