

HAPPY LANDINGS ANIMAL SHELTER

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Reg Charity: 287194 (Founded 1983 by Miss Annabelle Walter)

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NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN/WINTER 2008



The return of our **FUN DOG SHOW & OPEN DAY** in September was an absolute triumph!



In terms of weather and support we could have not had a better day. If you were one of the entrants or visitors who helped us to raise a massive £2,580, thank you. If you could not make it, then watch out for the date of the 2009 event in our next newsletter. This picture shows Amber Peck & her ex-Happy Landings dog Woody after winning the Posiest Pair class. Amber set a fine example when she donated her £10 prize money back to us and we are delighted at the other generous winners who followed her lead. Thanks also to the many businesses & individuals who donated prizes, baked cakes, gave us plants or who volunteered on the day. Also a big thank you to Roger from Delaware Vets & Emma from Crown Pet Foods for their excellent judging skills. With 48 dogs to choose from in the last class of the day, Emma had her work cut out for sure, finally choosing Jane Hallows & her lovely spaniel Sweep as the dog the judge would most like to take home! **It was wonderful to see so many of our former rescue dogs looking so happy & if you took photos or a video, we would love to see your efforts.**

A STROKE OF GENIUS!



A magnificent & brave effort from supporter Kat Baker has provided us with a welcome autumn windfall of more than £1,500. Brave Kat & five other swimming enthusiasts took part in a chilly Channel relay swim on September 12. Kat, a 22-year-old fitness instructor from Shepton Mallet raised the money for us through sponsorship & she battled through jelly-fish-infested shipping lanes to help the team reach the French coast in 13 hours, 9 minutes & 50 seconds. Kat & her parents have re-homed several former Happy Landings dogs & it was Jason the lurcher & Tink the white German Shepherd that were Kat's inspiration when deciding the beneficiary of her swim. She is already arranging her next Channel swim for 2009 & has denied the rumour that she is getting webbed toes & growing scales on her feet! **THANK YOU KAT... YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION!**

A HAPPY LANDING FOR STEVE!



Steve Cook, who is married to one of our supervisors jumped from a plane after weeks of aborted efforts thanks to the miserable August weather. On September 19, he bravely carried out his thrilling sponsored parachute jump at Netheravon Airfield, in Wiltshire. Steve said he had a scary moment when he looked up as his parachute opened & saw the lines had become twisted. He was glad he had listened to the training & knew what to do. After untwisting the lines, he was able to enjoy a slow, gentle descent, although he admits his landing was a bit less genteel as he pulled the cords a little too early. Steve was delighted to have taken part in a parachute jump & has raised £200 for Happy Landings & wanted to thank everyone who had sponsored him.

DO YOU FANCY DOING A SPONSORED CHALLENGE? Talk to us.



CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

You should find a book of raffle tickets in your envelope with this newsletter. Please, please try to sell as many as you can for us, it costs a lot of money for us to run and we cannot afford to make a loss. There are more tickets available in the Happy Landings reception... if you can sell more that would help us enormously! Look out for us selling tickets at local stores or car boot sales leading up to Christmas, & contact us if you are able to help on our fundraising stall. The draw will take place in the New Year with results in the next Newsletter. **THANK YOU**



200 CLUB LOTTERY

We are looking to drum up more support for our monthly cash prize draw, otherwise known as the 200 Club. For £5 a month you will have a chance of turning in a 1,000% profit & winning the monthly £50 prize, as well as the annual £1,000 draw. Owing to an administrative complication, we were not able to contact all 200 Club members to ask them if they would like to join for another year. If we did not contact you, please get in touch as soon as you can, & of course **WE WOULD LOVE NEW MEMBERS!** Ask us for a 200 Club form. The lucky £50 winner for September was Fred Chiplin & Mrs J Tucker was the October 200 Club winner – well done to them both!

Quiz Winners

Well done to Valerie Proctor, Mrs J Branch, Mrs J Draycott & Jane Haley who were the winners of our **spring quiz paper** & thanks to Winsborough's Fish & Chip Restaurant, Brothers Drinks, James Chocolates & Right Price DIY for donating their prizes. Winners of the **summer quiz paper** were Rod Crowe, Gillian Prill, Mrs P Collier & Ann Turnbull with thanks to Bowlsh House Restaurant, Sharpham Park, Bay Tree Food Company & Mole Valley Farmers for the lovely prizes.



Looking for a great gift idea for an animal lover?

Buy them a Happy Landings donation – the gift that will keep on giving! We have seasonal vouchers available in £5, £10 and £20 values. Make a donation to us on behalf of a friend or loved one and really make a difference this Christmas.

Santa's wish list from the staff & animals at Happy Landings.



We have been keeping a list of naughty animals this year for Santa and are pleased to report that everyone has been very well behaved and all deserve a pressie! This year, they have asked for toys. From our rabbits, ferrets and guinea pigs to our goats and pigs, all have asked for some playthings to bring some amusement to their lives. And of course our dogs and cats would love some fun toys to play with too. We do hope Santa (aka our generous supporters!) will do his best. Other things on the Santa list for animals and staff include wood based cat-litter, shavings, long shredded paper, refuse sacks, washing powder, dog poo bags, HP Photosmart C1580 ink cartridges, A4 paper. Please Santa if you have room on your sleigh, can we also have Chappie & Butchers dog food, Kit-e-Kat or Felix tinned cat & kitten food (we are getting through more than 600 tins of adult cat food a month!!),

More fundraising thanks

A huge thank you to our friends at the Bath & West Show Society for inviting us to exhibit this year. It was very successful & we met loads of lovely animal lovers, introducing many of them to ferrets for the first time! We were also delighted to have found new homes through the people that we met at the show for many of our rabbits & Sunny and Misty the chinchillas. Our attendance was such a big hit in the Showering Pavilion that we were then invited back at the National Amateur Gardening Show & hope to be back again at various show events next year.

Shepton Mallet Fun Run "Sweat-4-a-Pet" sponsored team



On Sunday, October 19, a team of 11 staff & supporters took part in the 5km fun run on behalf of our animals. Pounding the streets in smart team running vests sponsored by Winsboroughs Fish & Chip Restaurant. The HL team, (many of them old enough to know better!) managed to raise more than £650 between them. A fine effort from the "Sweat-4-a-Pet gang" ... well done everyone & thanks to sponsors & Winsboroughs who also provided a complimentary hearty supper for our worn out team!

SPONSORED WALK – JUNE 8 – Collett Park – thanks to all those who took part on such a blistering hot day & sponsored them.

MUSIC CONCERT – QUEENS ARMS – April 9 – thanks to performers & paying audience..

DRAGON NAMING COMPETITION - May/June – thanks to eco-sculptor Chris Pilmore, all entrants & sponsors Framptons Limited. Well done to winner, Phil Cook from Portishead who chose Tyrus.

SOMERFIELD, WELLS & CO-OPERATIVE, CHARLTON RD, SHEPTON – for having pet food collection boxes in store & to SPEEDFIT of Shepton for sponsoring one of the boxes.

THE PUB CRAWLING LADIES OF CHARLTON HOUSE HOTEL – for raising almost £800 on June 7.

CROWN PET FOODS – for supplying the wonderful goody bag prizes at our dog show & to all the local businesses who sponsored the £10 first prize money in the 13 classes.

TOM & KATH THOMAS – who asked friends to donate to Happy Landings instead of giving them birthday gifts, raising £500.

BERYL SMITH – who asked friends to give cash to us instead of receiving 80th birthday presents.

WHITSTONE SCHOOL – gave us half the proceeds of a sponsored walk in September, presenting us with a whopping £735 !

FUNDRAISING STALL – Thanks for helping - Stu & Mary Luxford, Anna, Ross & Louise Guowich, Jake Turner, Marian & Trevor Padfield, Richard & Veronica Compton, Tony Wolff, Sarah Pollard & Ashley, Molly, Adelle, Thea, Olivia, Ashley, Becky & Justine.

THATCHERS PET SHOP & CASTLE CARY PET SUPPLIES – To staff & customers for donations.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NURSERY, BROWNES GARDEN CENTRE & FROME GARDEN CENTRE – for the lovely plants donated for our dog show plant stall.

FRAMPTONS TRANSPORT SERVICES – For a large donation of dried cat & dog food in October.

FRAMPTONS LIMITED – For photocopying loads of our dog show schedules for us!

FROME FUNDRAISING GROUP – For raising a magnificent £4,685 from a variety of fundraising events.

GERRY & JANET COPSEY OF PLANOS HOLIDAYS – For paying for the printing of our new folded leaflet.

PAM & JOHN GWILLIAM – for raising so much money through the sale of Pam's wonderful Hedgehog Collection knitted accessories.

SUE TINLIN & the "A-TEAM" in Exeter who raised £561 for us despite the challenges of terrible weather and poor health.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY LANDINGS!



We were delighted to welcome television presenter Valerie Singleton, patron of Happy Landings, to our 25th Anniversary Open Day on Sunday, July 6. Miss Singleton helped our founder, Annabelle Walter cut the ribbon of our new multi-animal unit, celebrating the silver anniversary of the charity's birth. The unit is now bursting to the seams with cats, kittens and bunnies.

Thanks to everyone involved in finishing the unit & to Tom Yeoman for his free 8 hour stint in a digger to level our soil mountain which was dug out for the unit's footings.

One of our regular supporters has animal friendly holiday accommodation and Nicky has made a generous donation if we print the following details of her apartments:

Cheshire 4* self-catering apartments to let in converted barn Daverham village, nr Northwich. Open all year, pets welcome. Sleeps 2/3 in quiet rural area overlooking huge lake and open countryside. Bring binocs good for birds, hares, foxes, squirrels, badgers etc. All animals here (goats, ducks, geese, poultry, dogs, cats) are rescues. 20 mins J18 and 19 of M6. 19 miles Chester. Cranford/Knutsford, Tatton Park, Jodrell bank, Anderton Boat Lift etc etc a few miles away. Trent & Mersey Canal 5 minutes walk away. Organic Farm Shop nearby. Open all year, 01606 334770/46645, 07794 906601 e-mail: ade@yewtreeapartments.co.uk



Our new dog agility course

A massive thank you to the customers & ladies of the Wessex Animal Trust Community Shop in Stalbridge for funding our agility course. Our dogs now have a see-saw, an A-frame, weaving poles, hurdles & a tunnel to keep them busy & burn up excess energy. Our poor staff however never have a drop of excess energy left!

If you are having training issues, recall problems with your dog, you may like to borrow our fenced dog exercise paddock. In exchange for a donation to Happy Landings, you can make an appointment to bring up your dog and use the safety of our paddock to

practice recall. In the spring next year, we may even have our agility paddock safely fenced, ready for public sessions.

What next?

Sometimes it is easy for us to look around & hang our heads at the uphill battle ahead. Every project completed is a real boost to morale & makes life a little better for the 450 or so animals we re-home each year, but whatever we achieve, there is always more.

In the coming months we are looking for funding & help with the following projects: New Driveway/new goat yard surface/repaired pathways/ride-on lawnmower/new rabbit runs/shade veranda for new unit/extra windows in kennel block/permanent dog pagoda in paddock/Airtight feed bins/ fencing to split the goat field.... & **A NEW RECEPTION/OFFICE!**

Please understand our dilemma:

Sometimes we are donated items for our animals which they are unable to use or we get over-stocked with certain things. The digestive systems of rescue animals can frequently be rather delicate & often some of the less common pet foods upset their tummies. We find Butchers and Chappie the most agreeable food for dogs & Kit-e-Kat & Felix the best for our cats. Please do not be offended if you see us at car boot sales or events selling items which have been donated to our animals. We have large vets bills & utility bills to pay, & the shortage of money is always desperate. We hope you will understand that this has always been a dilemma for us. However, we feel it is better to convert certain donated items which we are unable to use into hard cash which we are always desperate for rather than for them to perish on the shelf or gather dust in a corner.

OAP animal appeal



KELLOGGS is a beautiful, humble tabby cat whose life went pear-shaped when his elderly owner could no longer keep him. Living in a shed with the neighbours doing food drops, the poor boy was skinny & depressed when he came into us. He also had an ongoing eye infection which left him with sore, gooeey eyes. Several vet trips later & it was confirmed that not only were his tear ducts not working properly, but he also had a double entropion, an extremely painful condition where the eye lid rolls in, pushing the eyelashes on to the eye ball. His eyes have now been operated on to correct this - and a quick dental to sort out his teeth - so Kelloggs is now far more comfortable. However, despite

his new good looks, we cannot find anyone that wants to give him a home. Kelloggs is not a spring chicken, but he is young for his 15 years. He would love a home with a lap and a fireside.

E-mailing Newsletters – please help us to save £'s & trees!

If you have access to a computer, please give us your e-mail address so we can send your future newsletters electronically. We spend a small fortune on printing costs, stamps & envelopes not to mention the unnecessary death of innocent trees and the tedious hours we spend putting newsletters into envelopes! It would save us a lot of money & you would get your copy with colour photographs too!

HAPPY ENDINGS AT HAPPY LANDINGS



ARCHIE: For us it turned out that St Bernards are like buses in more ways than their size - we don't see any and then three all turn up at once! When Archie's owner's circumstances changed and they were unable to keep him they brought him to us. Of Spanish origin, with an ongoing heart condition and a real stubborn streak, Archie was not without his issues. Kennel staff were thrilled when his perfect match came much more quickly than expected..... and..... the family completely fell for him. Their existing lab and Archie, although perhaps an odd-matched couple, took to one another immediately. All are doing very well and all are extremely happy with the match.

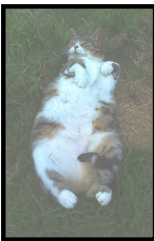


BENJI : Poor little Benji,(the little JR on lap). When his elderly owner died there was no one who could have him and Benji was left home alone. Kennels did not suit him - the change from a quiet 1:1 home to a kennels full of barking dogs was just too much for him. With his world turned upside down, Benji became very distrustful of people, aggressive with other dogs & increasingly difficult to handle. Staff began to despair for him, but managed to find him a foster home that could help him work through his problems. After a couple of months Benji was a different dog altogether & finally ready for rehoming. When the Federicks came in search of a nice little dog to accompany their lurcher, Benji was their perfect match. After a few walks & day visits Benji was ready to move in full time and has thrived ever since.

PUMPKIN & LITTLE DOT: Pumpkin and three other felines were all brought into us late one summer's evening. Horribly underweight, full of fleas, fur filthy and matted, she was a pitiful sight - her kittens had all died the day before, aged just three days. Stuffed into the box with her was a little black kitten, in an even more desperate state and victim of the worst flea infestation we have ever seen. Little Dot, as we called her, was a pitiful scrap, but a real fighter and full of character. Sadly she got to us too late, a combination of anaemia caused by the fleas, and poisoning from the calpol her owners had given her, proving too much for her frail system. She died at the vets on a drip, a frustrating and horrible waste, not caused by deliberate cruelty but by ignorance. Pumpkin fared better. Slowly but surely her weight improved, her fur, bathed and de-matted, began to grow back and to shine. Finally well enough to vaccinate and spey, Pumpkin was ready to leave us. Having won the hearts of all the staff with her gentle and forgiving nature, it did not take long for someone to fall for her. Pumpkin is now unrecognisable, glossy and thriving in her country home. Only a certain knowing look in her eyes tells of the ordeal she has had to endure.



FLOYD: One of our longer term rescue dogs, handsome Rottweiler Floyd has gone to a wonderful home in the countryside. He has acres of land in which to run and play. Many of his food guarding issues also seem to be a thing of the past & his new owner is delighted with him.



PUDDY TATT: I am sure that many of you will remember Puds featuring in previous newsletters. A difficult cat who had suffered serious abuse, was slow to trust and a comfort eater to boot, poor Puds did not have much going for her. Having been with us for two and a half years and made as much progress as she could with us, we had all but given up hope of finding her a new home. She so desperately needed an understanding owner who could love her as she is and help her blossom. Puddy Tatt was extremely lucky and was finally rehomed this summer. We all miss her but are so thrilled for her - in a quiet home with relaxed, understanding owners, Puddy Tatt really could not have done better.

DON'T FORGET TO LET US HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER. OR IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO US ABOUT A SPONSORED EVENT OR TO HELP WITH FUNDRAISING IN ANY WAY, CALL CAROL VINCENT, FUNDRAISING & PR MANAGER ON 07954 190072.



And finally... Happy Christmas to one & all and a prosperous & peaceful New Year