

PADS NEWS

JULY 2018



THE CHARITY THAT RESCUES AND REHOMES UNWANTED DOGS

This was always our mission ... In the 28 years since PADS was founded nothing has changed. Our aim is simple - to give shelter and safety to dogs who have been abused, abandoned and neglected and to find good homes for them with people who will love them and look after them well for the rest of their lives. Our job is to maintain a safe shelter and to protect abandoned and homeless dogs brought to us by the police, dog wardens and owners who can no longer look after them. We do this by efficiently running our kennels, which have been highly praised as THE role model for all charity-run animal shelters in Scotland. We provide veterinary treatment for all the dogs in our care who need it and the numbers of those who do are on the increase. Since PADS was formed all these years ago we have successfully rehomed around 7,800 dogs - 78 this past year alone. It's not always easy. Take Finn the Husky, pictured here in the garden of his new home. He was sick and exhausted and needed a lot of treatment before he could be adopted. Now it is a joy to see Finn so happy, healthy and safe with wonderful people.

Our success in fulfilling our objectives is greatly due to a caring staff with years of experience, to our cooperation with Perth and Kinross dog wardens, the police, and the folk at Tay Valley Vets. However, all that PADS achieves costs money. We are a small charity which has benefited from the incredible generosity of the kind people of Perthshire and we look forward to that support in the future. There will always be a need for charities like PADS, for there will always be those who abuse, neglect and abandon dogs. To raise money we have events each year, such as our very popular Dog Show in August and our Coffee Morning in November. See back page for details! We promote the charity via social media and our new website, which will soon have a link to a new PADS News Online. And this year we have completed a re-branding of PADS. We have a new logo, new design on our van, on our signs at the kennels, on our collection cans, banners and staff uniforms. We have to keep PADS in the public eye, for despite our fundraising efforts the amounts we gain do not come close to covering the expenses of running the kennels and caring for the dogs. Via social media we hope to encourage dog lovers in Perthshire to think up ways of raising cash for us. However, as is the case with all animal charities, the greater part of our income comes from legacies, without which we would be unable to function. We have recently managed to start the renovation of outside runs at the kennels and we hope next year to renovate and brighten up the quarantine block in which stray dogs spend their first week with us.

PADS is managed by a small board of five trustees who administer everything to do with the charity. They take no benefit whatsoever and this is entirely a labour of love. We think of it as much like that unconditional love that the dog shows for its human. It seems like a fair exchange to us!

FINN'S STORY



FINN THE HUSKY, aged nine, arrived at PADS a very sick dog. He needed many weeks of care and treatment and finally a major operation to cure a kidney condition. Finn's lifelong companion, an elderly lady Husky called Tealc, had arrived at PADS with him and, tragically, was found to have inoperable bladder cancer. We did everything we could for her but eventually poor Tealc was mercifully put to sleep to save her from any suffering. There is no doubt that this sad loss delayed Finn's recovery from his operation and he suffered many weeks of tummy upsets and poor appetite. Then along came Dawn Morgan (pictured with Finn) and her husband Laurence, who were looking for a canine companion to adopt. Right away they fell for Finn. Nine is a good age for a Husky, so Dawn and her hubby joined the ranks of those very special folk who give a loving home to an older dog. Dawn told PADS, "When we met Finn he immediately wanted to run around and play ball! I cannot believe he is nine, for at times he is just like a big puppy. We adore him. A few weeks ago he joined us for a seven mile walk - which he happily took in his stride." Finn has a wonderful home, a gorgeous garden in which to relax and two good people who will love him to bits for the rest of his life. PADS thanks you Dawn and Laurence on Finn's behalf for giving his story a happy ending!



MEET OUR SPONSOR ... THE MAN WHO NOSE HIS GIN ... AND LOVES HIS DOGS

When Simon Fairclough's gin producing enterprise began to flourish the dog-loving Perthshire businessman looked for a way to give something back to the animals for whom he cares so much. He already had an idea to perfect a range of dog breed gins which would appeal to dog-loving gin drinkers and decided to incorporate this into the sponsorship of a canine charity. He chose PADS. Simon, boss and creator of PERSIE GIN, a small, family run craft distillery based north of Bridge of Cally, will donate £1 per bottle sold of his dog gin range to PADS. Thus, drinkers who enjoy Simon's aromatic gins will be helping abandoned dogs who come to PADS. Simon said, "We are huge dog lovers and were keen to put a percentage of our profits towards helping dogs that are suffering or in difficulty. We are over the moon about what we are building here with PADS. We look forward to working together as a good team." PADS sees this as beneficial relationship between a very successful small Perthshire business and a highly regarded Perthshire charity and Vice Chair Alison Kennedy said, "We are delighted to be part of this. It will be a big help to us and perhaps serve as a model for other small businesses and charities to consider." Simon is currently producing three of his original gins, all of which are award winning. His first dog gin, the Labrador, was officially launched at the recent Game Fair in Scone and is already popular. The idea is to reflect the character of the breed in each dog gin and hence the Labrador is easy-drinking, mellow and traditional! Simon, thank you and keep up the good work!

Simon believes that the secret of a good gin is its aroma - which provides 75 per cent of the sensory impact. His nose is the creative tool which tells him which ingredients to add to the mix during distillation. After Labrador will most likely come Spaniel Gin, 'bright and lively'. Simon is well aware, of course, that according to recent research on the dog nose, Sissie his own Labrador has a sniffer possibly 100,000 times more efficient than his own. However five year old Sissie prefers biscuits and bones, so is not likely to challenge the boss's dominance in the nose stakes when it comes to gin!

Our thanks this year goes also to Pets at Home, with whom we have, along with other animal charities, a charity partnership. The dog superstore supports us and PADS has a charity stall there on dates twice a year. We are grateful also to the Perthshire design company Fraktul, who gave us so much help with our re-branding, aimed at giving PADS a 'new look'. One individual who we must also thank is young Katie McCandless - Thomson, who with her Facebook missing pets page reunited more than 1,500 distraught owners in Perth and Kinross with their pets in the last five years. Her latest venture is a new website called Dog Friendly Perthshire. It is a visitor guide to the county for dog owners, the launch of which raised £1,700 for PADS, Thank you Katie! - And thanks also to all the kind folk who gave donations, large and small, to help our dogs.

THE SAD PLIGHT OF THE OLDER DOG

What happens in society and the economy is often reflected in what takes place at the gates of a dog rescue charity like PADS. The number of older dogs being brought to us by their owners is on the increase. They come to us not because their owners have suddenly decided to buy a puppy but due to the fact they are suffering from old dog ailments, such as arthritis, heart problems and the need for dental care. And the stark truth is that vet fees are now so high that many folk who are feeling the pinch simply cannot afford them. These are good people who care about their old dogs, but this inevitably puts a great financial burden on a rescue charity like ourselves which is duty bound to provide all necessary care for these older animals. Better they come to us than having to suffer, but this comes at a price!

PADS kennel manager Louise Perrett reports that in the last year we took in 90 strays, most of whom were claimed within a day due to microchipping, which quickly identifies an owner. We took 67 dogs from owners. The most common reasons for this is death or illness, relationship break up, a new job with longer hours, house move and, of course, the problem of the sick older dog. We did however find loving homes for 78 dogs who have been given a second chance of happiness by kind people with whom they will share the rest of their lives.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

We live in uncertain times. The only thing we can be sure of is that everything we need to buy costs more and more. Never less. It's exactly the same for Perthshire's own dog rescue charity! The price of food, energy bills, insurances, maintenance and in particular vet fees continues to head skywards and it now costs around £100,000 per year to run our kennels. We spend every penny wisely and all our financial efforts are directed towards maintaining and improving the standard of our care for the dogs. Last year Scottish Government minister Roseanna Cunningham, who visited PADS as part of a possible future plan to license Scotland's animal rescue centres, praised our charity and said, "This charity gives the animals here the best possible care. It is a wonderful place, a role model for all the others in Scotland."

Like most animal charities we depend on legacies to provide the largest part of our income. Without these we could not continue, for we could not hope to meet these costs with day to day fundraising alone. If you are making or changing your will, please remember PADS. We are grateful for every legacy we receive whether it is large or small. Thank you from all of us at PADS.

TWO'S COMPANY..!

MEET THE FOLK WITH TWO PADS DOGS

Six years ago Darren and Caroline Petrie adopted Tye, an adorable, affectionate and highly intelligent Staffie who had been with PADS for a year. He was by-passed by everyone – probably due to the fact that he was a tough looking male with a black coat.

Now Tye is eleven and has a mature grey muzzle. Then, a few months ago, along came Daisy, a tiny, turbo-charged PADS Jack Russell pulsating with energy and mischief. The two get along just fine – but we don't have to tell you who is boss! Caroline says, "We knew that Tye was getting older and decided it would be good to have a younger dog around to keep him sprightly. He has been a wonderful dog who helped in my sports teaching class at school and won many friends. The kids adored him. Daisy is a wee devil, but we love her very much. She definitely keeps Tye on his toes!"

Last Year the first of two PADS dogs arrived to live with Alan

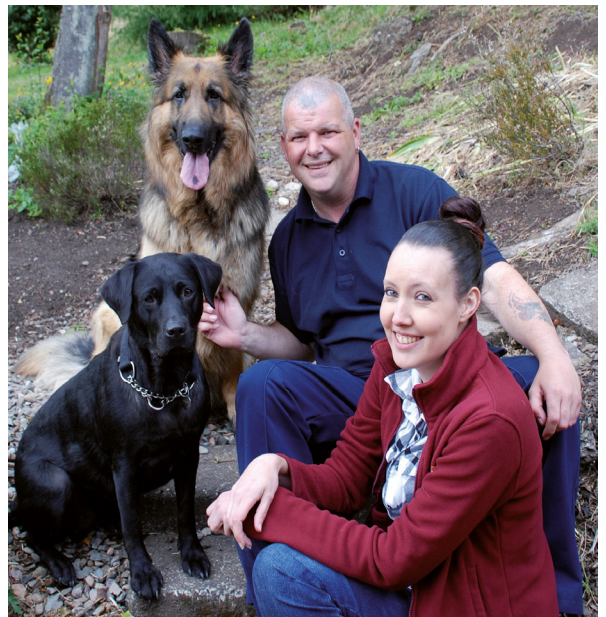
Robertson and Emma Davidson. Troy, a three year old German Shepherd had been a little over HALF the weight he should have been when he came to PADS, but with a good diet and much care

he gradually regained a shining health. Next to arrive at the couple's home in rural Perthshire was Sasha, a black Lab cross aged four, who was so scared of human contact it took PADS experienced staff THREE WEEKS to gain her trust and coax her from her kennel. Now, both dogs are together as firm friends in the wonderful home they have been given by Alan and Emma. Troy,

who still has a sensitive tummy, dines on fish, chicken and scrambled eggs. Sasha now greets visitors without fear. Thanks to this kind and caring couple they are both happy, healthy dogs with a great life ahead of them. Alan and Emma agree – "they are fantastic together now and the best of friends." – Which goes to prove that all dogs need to thrive is kindness and love.



DARREN AND CAROLINE PETRIE WITH DAISY AND TYE



ALAN ROBERTSON AND EMMA DAVIDSON IN THE GARDEN WITH TROY AND SASHA



Graham Watson, who died last year aged 89, was PADS chair for ten years until 2003. A kind and generous man, he is sadly missed by all of us at PADS, who enjoyed his clever wit, his common sense and great love of animals.

GRAHAM WATSON was a compassionate man whose concern for the rejects of the canine world was boundless. He worked tirelessly for the charity so that it could extend its care to as many homeless dogs as possible. He had many other interests, including natural sciences, archaeology and his beloved rugby and was a prominent figure in many societies in Perth. However, the dogs who arrived at PADS were closest to his heart. He had many canine companions of his own, the most famous being Glen the Golden Lab who used to wander off to stand hopefully outside his local butcher's shop in Perth. One day Glen made for the Tay and became stranded on a sandbank in the river. He was rescued by a courageous traffic warden who was lowered down to the dog on a rope from the bridge. He managed to coax Glen to safety from his precarious position. Graham's widow Georgie recalls, "Graham was distraught at Glen's plight and hailed the man as a hero! Graham was a truly lovely, kind person with a huge sense of humour who would have helped anyone. He gave so much in time and work to PADS, the animal charity he loved."

All dog lovers, as Graham Watson was, talk often about the 'unconditional love' they believe their animals provide. Now scientists have proved that such a love does indeed exist. In his recent book, *'The Animals Among Us'*, researcher John Bradshaw writes that science has now confirmed that dogs well socialised to people do feel genuine affection towards their owners and hence that 'unconditional love' is real. He prefers to call that kind of affection which animals show to humans could be better described as 'uncomplicated'. Unlike human relationships, there is no 'baggage' and he says that 'the welcome that they give us when we come home is genuine and should be enjoyed for what it is'. John Bradshaw's book has launched a brand new field of research called Anthrozoology, the study of the bond between humans and their pets. It is an enjoyable and highly readable book and a must for the thinking dog lover!



Stephen Robertson and Rachel Watson at home with Harvey, the dog with the mystery ancestry who captured their hearts!

WHO IS HARVEY? ...MYSTERY SOLVED!

The staff at PADS kennels are normally very adept at working out the probable mix of a newcomer. They usually get it right. In the case of Harvey the general consensus was 'definitely cross Husky - Staffie. No doubt about it. Take a bet on it!' However, when Stephen Robertson and Rachel Watson offered the big three year old a home they weren't quite so sure as the experts and decided to have Harvey's DNA checked out. Back came the results and guess what? Harvey turned out to be 50 per cent American Bulldog, 37.5 per cent Staffie and 12.5 per cent Bull Mastiff. However, despite his macho ancestry he is a big softie who loves to have his tummy tickled and his chin scratched. Harvey suffered from separation anxiety when he arrived at PADS and had destructive tendencies. But the Blairgowrie couple have got that pretty well sorted and Harvey is now more socialised with other dogs. Stephen said, "He is a really great dog. He gets on just fine with a friend's collie and with female dogs and is gradually improving. Also, he is now much calmer and more settled when we have to leave him. His DNA certainly was a surprise!"

Thankfully, things have changed radically in this country for our best friend since PADS was formed 28 years ago. Then, stray dogs were kept in the cages of a ghastly pound in Perth, a place without running water or decent food and after seven days, if unclaimed, they were put to sleep. It was the existence of this awful pound that inspired a dedicated group of animal lovers to found PADS and the charity has evolved over the years into a benchmark for dog shelters in Scotland. The reputation of PADS for the work it does for the welfare of abandoned dogs is in great part due to the commitment of our staff. Pictured on the right is our Assistant Manager, Jo High, with a happy energetic Staffie called Floyd who enjoys his enthusiastic daily frolic in one of our exercise areas. Jo says, "It is so important to interact with the dogs and give them a chance to play and enjoy life again! I am very lucky too, because I am doing a job that I absolutely love. I enjoy every minute of it!"

