

PADS NEWS



KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ABOUT PERTSHIRE'S BEST-LOVED ANIMAL RESCUE, THE CHARITY WHICH CARES FOR AND REHOMES UNWANTED AND ABANDONED DOGS.

The welfare and safety of the dogs who come to us, some of whom have been badly treated or neglected, are our top priority. We shelter them and care for them until they find new homes. Next year PADS will celebrate its 30th anniversary and by then the number of dogs we have helped will be very near 8,000. This past year we have managed to renovate outside runs at our main kennel block and also have cleared a site to give dogs in quarantine a free run area where they can exercise or just laze around in the sunshine! We are hoping to refurbish the quarantine block itself early next year. This is important as it is the first place lost or abandoned dogs come to after they are picked up by dog wardens or police. Often, they are scared and disorientated and we want to make them as comfortable as we can until they settle down to kennel routine.

This is our major project for next year and we hope to finish the renovations in time for our 30th birthday celebration! It will be a costly job, but one worth doing to improve the lives of the dogs who come to us for the love and care they deserve. If you would like to help us in our work, visit our website at padsdogrescue.com and find how you can donate to PADS. Every little cash gift helps and food and all kinds of dog stuff are always welcome too! On the site you will also see some of the dogs ready for rehoming, so check them out if you think you might like to give a PADS dog a forever home. Our staff are always available to give advice and you can contact PADS on 01764 684491, or e-mail us at padskennels@btinternet.com. The kennels are open from 1 pm until 3 pm on weekdays and from 1 pm until 3.30 pm during weekends. Visitors are welcome.



**THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL DOG.
READ ABOUT HIM INSIDE**

- And turn the page to discover what happened to MARLEY a dear wee Yorkie, neglected, confused and unloved. -Then there is BEAR, a little Bichon Frise so terrified that staff at PADS could not coax him out of his kennel for many days. -And what about POPPY, the French Bulldog, probably used for breeding then abandoned in a park in Perth?

WHAT BECAME OF THEM?

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE TO FIND OUT!

THREE LONELY LITTLE LIVES TRANSFORMED -



Through no fault of his own, little Marley the Yorkie (on the left) had been in four homes before arriving at PADS. His chaotic lifestyle had left him scared, neglected, and with no appetite. Then along came the Rowe family of Perth, who wanted a pal for their own Yorkie, Max. Carol tempted wee Marley, who is three, with delicious recipes from a book by Lily's Kitchen founder Henrietta Morrison. Now Carol serves up two home cooked meals a day to her Yorkies and Marley needs a 'slow eating' bowl to avoid him consuming his meals in one gulp! His life is transformed. Carol says, "He is full of affection, and loves his food and his new pal Max. He is a very happy wee dog." His miserable existence now just a fading memory, Marley has a home full of love, care, and companionship—not to mention those marvellous meals!

- Don't ever believe that dogs can't smile. Just take a look at the happy face of Bear, the gorgeous, fluffy little Bichon Frise here on the right. Bear was traumatised after his owner died, and when young Perth teacher Paula Findlay saw him at PADS he was too scared to leave his kennel. Paula says, "He was terrified, both of people and of other dogs. I visited him at PADS for weeks before I took him home. And when he came back with me it was a long time before he settled in and came out of his shell. It took patience and much love." Now three year old Bear and Paula are inseparable and the wee chap is relaxed and joyful in his new forever home. His best new pal is Paula's horse Jack, and Bear is, arguably, Perth's happiest pooch. Paula added, "It's all about trust and love. He knows I will never leave him and that he is secure and safe. I cannot imagine life without him. He is a wonderful little dog, full of beans and friends with everyone." For Bear, thanks to Paula his beloved human, the world no longer fills him with fear and dread.



Poppy the French Bulldog was found lost, alone and in very poor shape in a Perth park. The vet thought Poppy, aged three, had been used for breeding then discarded. Michael Kealy, whose dog died last year, came to PADS in search of a canine companion. When he saw Poppy it was love at first sight. Michael said, "She was pretty scared but now is happy and pals with everyone. Her life is transformed, but so is mine. I am no longer on my own, and have a great friend in her." Secure and safe, the wee dog now has a home and a best pal for life!

TRAINING TRIUMPH FOR DOMINO — THE YOUNG DOG WHO IS DEAF



Domino the Lurcher is a star! At just seven months, despite the sad fact that he is stone deaf, he can now obey hand signals and follow instructions. And this smart youngster is now proud to show off his level one training rosette just to prove his amazing progress! Domino is a baffling mixture of Greyhound, Whippet, Saluki and Bedlington Terrier, with a wee bit of Staffie thrown in. He was adopted by the kind McConnachie family of Perth, who already have a PADS dog called Alfie, now 12 years old. Domino is a lively lad and quite a handful, but the family adore him and are determined to get him to the top of his training class! Mark McConnachie says, “Considering he is so young, still just a puppy, he is actually doing really well. He will now respond to the hand signals which tell him to ‘come back, sit, and settle’. He enjoys a treat when he gets it right! Yes, it’s hard work, but we are sure he will get the hang of it all to be a well-trained dog!”

The hardest part of the training procedure is getting Domino’s attention in the first place. If he doesn’t happen to look at Mark and his wife Jill then how will he see the signals that follow? Mark says, “The best way is to give him the thumbs up (good dog!) sign and a small treat every time he looks at us.” What about a torch? Well, that’s not such a good idea as he would be increasingly attracted to shiny things, and that would defeat the purpose! Domino attends classes run by top Perthshire dog trainer Kairyn Beatson. Kairyn tells us that although training a deaf dog is quite a challenge, Domino is doing very well. “With a dog that can hear, any action should be accompanied by the appropriate word. With a deaf dog, the action goes along with the right hand signal. The hardest bit is getting Domino to look at you, but the way round that is the ‘thumbs up’ signal and the tasty treat each time he looks the right way. Then he will associate the two together!”

GOOD LUCK DOMINO....YOU ARE INDEED A STAR!

LOVE FOR DOGS? IT’S ALL IN THE GENES!

Why do some people adore animals - dogs in particular - while others are less than happy with a pooch around? Scientists have found that the answer lies in a gene which produces a hormone called oxytocin, which is linked to human relationships and social binding. The boffins discovered that those people who had a greater love of animals had a specific version of the gene. Although social factors also influence our ‘dog love’, for the first time it has been proved that our genes may play a role in our compassion and love for animals. - So now you know. Love dogs? You simply cannot help yourself!

THANKS TO FIONA—FROM ALL OF US AT PADS

Fiona Stewart, who has been Chair at PADS for seven years, has resigned from our Board of Trustees. Fiona worked tirelessly for the charity and skilfully oversaw the changes that have taken place over that period. She has been associated with PADS in various roles for 27 years in total and even completed the climbs of all the Munros on Skye to raise funds for the charity! She will, however, not be saying goodbye to her beloved PADS. Fiona, a keen fundraiser with excellent organisational skills, will now become our dedicated fundraising co-ordinator as we look towards our 30th anniversary next year. Sincere thanks Fiona for your loyalty, hard work, skills and dedication over all these years!

GETTING READY FOR A NEW HOME



It's all about gaining trust, says PADS kennels manager Louise Perrett, who has been with the charity for 25 years. This was important with this elderly Golden Retriever called Heidi. Heidi came to PADS due to a marriage break up in her home of 14 years. Louise was heartbroken when she heard of Heidi's sad plight, for this healthy old girl would take some time to adjust to a new home—if she was lucky enough to find one at her age. *Well, Heidi has been very lucky.* She is now very happy in a wonderful home which she will have for the rest of her life.

When a dog comes to us, brought by police or the dog warden as a lost dog or a stray, our first job is to check it for any injuries. Also, we need to know if a male dog has been neutered or a female dog is in season. The dog is then put in a kennel in our quarantine block, with a warm bed, food and water to make it feel safe and comfortable. Some dogs are very confused, traumatised and anxious and it can often take days for them to settle down, feel safe and allow themselves to be handled. Staff at the kennels recently had the case of a Labrador who was so scared it took weeks to coax her out of her kennel for some exercise. It has to be a gentle process of gaining the trust of the animal and reassuring it that nothing bad will happen to it. With strays, we never know what they have endured before they come to the safety of PADS. If the dog is genuinely lost and has been micro-chipped we can trace the owner very quickly and the animal will be safely returned to its home. If the dog has no identity chip and the owner cannot be traced, after seven days it becomes the property of PADS to rehabilitate and rehome. First on the 'to do' list is a visit to our vet in Perth for a full check up, neutering if necessary and vaccinations. However, if a dog is brought to us by its owner who, for whatever reason, can no longer look after it, the whole process is much simpler as we have a history of the dog, its veterinary treatment and its nature and behaviour patterns. However, our experienced staff carefully assess every dog before it is put up for adoption so that we can be as sure as possible that animal and human will be happy together!

All this sounds pretty straightforward, but despite PADS best efforts some dogs wait for a long time for their forever home! Even although they are affectionate and good-natured a number are often rejected time and time again. Louise Perrett has seen thousands of dogs pass through the kennels and always says, "I get very sad when I see a nice dog being regularly passed by, but I always tell myself that there will be someone out there who will give this dog a home. It usually happens. We just need to be patient!" Usually, given the chance, the scruffiest wee dog can bring someone joy and companionship!

Persie
persiedistillery.com

CHARITY GINS FOR PADS DOG RESCUE
RAISING FUNDS TO RESCUE AND REHOME ABANDONED DOGS

**WE DID IT.
WE LET THE DOGS OUT.**

THANKS FROM PADS

-To **PERSIE GIN**, our major sponsor, who donates to us £1 for every bottle of their 'dog day' gins sold. On the left is **PERSIE's** cheerful and charming **Chrissie Fairclough**, whose husband **Simon** is the mastermind behind Persie gin aromas! -To **PETS AT HOME**, our charity partner, for fund raising facilities at their **Perth store**. -To **PERTH DOGGY DAY CARE CENTRE**, who raised cash via a courageous 'sleepout' on a very cold winter night. -To **KATIE MCCANDLESS-THOMAS** of Dog Friendly Perthshire and the county's favourite dog photographer **CRAIG CANTWELL** for their pop up dog portrait studio in aid of PADS. -AND to all of you who gave us donations of money, food, toys, cosy blankets and special treats. - AND, of course, our thanks to all the kind folk who opened their hearts this year to abandoned dogs and gave them good homes for the rest of their lives. Special people and special dogs!