



PADS NEWS



BIG BEN'S SUPER-SLIM!

When Ben the Border Collie arrived at PADS nine months ago staff were horrified when he stepped on the scales. He weighed in at a shocking 42 kilos. That's just over 92 lbs. The poor animal could hardly walk and getting up on to his four legs from a lying position was a painful process due to arthritis. The sweet natured collie was sad and subdued by this huge amount of excess weight. However, at his most recent weigh-in nine months later the scales revealed that Ben had lost a staggering 17 kilos (just over 37 lbs). He has another couple of kilos to lose before he gets to his target of 23 kilos, which is close to half his original body weight when he arrived at PADS.

The ten year old is now a happy, healthy, energetic dog whose life has been transformed thanks to his adoring human, former life coach and exercise specialist Jann Heigh along with help and advice from PADS's Agata Brzek. Jann has given Ben a wonderful forever home... and a life-saving diet! She said, "Poor Ben was so large he looked like a sea lion. His first attempts to climb a few stairs resulted in him falling on the second step. We had to do very short walks, just a few steps at a time , for he was so overweight that he could hardly stand up. Now he just wants to run and run like all collies but still has to take care due to his arthritis."



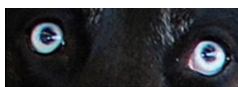
The 17 kilo bag of dog food represents Ben's amazing 9 month weight loss. Jann says, "He never complained, just gently ate up his rations." Treats? - "A little something a couple of times a week!" Ben was sponsored by friends and will raise over £800 for PADS when he gets to his 23 kilo target. Check social media for updates! "Our thanks to Jann for giving the new slim-line Ben a wonderful home and the chance to live a normal, happy dog's life", said Joanna High, PADS Assistant Kennel Manager.

THANKS to all the kind folk of Perthshire who have supported PADS in these challenging times and we wish everyone a Happy Christmas. At the time of writing we have no idea what this year's festive season will be like but hopefully we can all make the best of it! This is a year like no other in our lifetimes and we all must adapt. We have changed our adoption process to comply with COVID rules to keep everyone safe and you can find out about this on our website at padsdogrescue.com If you wish to donate to the charity, details are here also. You can e-mail us at padskennels@btinternet.com for information or call **01764 684491**.

OUR MISSION IS TO SHELTER, CARE FOR AND RE-HOME UNWANTED DOGS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ILL-TREATED AND NEGLECTED. IN 30 YEARS WE HAVE FOUND HOMES FOR ALMOST 8,000 OF THEM. ALL DONATIONS WE RECEIVE GO TO SUPPORT THE KENNELS AND THE WELFARE OF ABANDONED DOGS BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE CHARITY SC011033

SONNY FINDS A HOME AT LAST !

Sonny, now aged 7, was one of our hardest to rehome dogs! He was with PADS for fully 18 months waiting for the right humans to come along. He had plenty offers from folk who were mesmerised by his ice blue eyes, but he's a big, strong, boisterous guy who needed space to run and play. You can't see those eyes in our main picture as they are lifted to the skies, saying "Phew! A real home at last!" But here's a close-up.



Amazing, aren't they? Sonny is a black Lab—Husky cross who has the most stunning, eyes we ever saw on any of our canine clients. Good luck Sonny—we'll miss you!



A STRANGE COINCIDENCE led Sonny to his new home in Fife with Caroline Burt and her partner David Cragg. Caroline says, "We both searched the rescue centres on the internet for days, with no particular kind of dog in mind. We did this separately, and each of us must have seen countless dogs. Then I found Sonny in PADS. I went back to look again and again and it turned out that Dave had been looking at him as well!" Caroline and Dave filled in the PADS adoption application form, met

Sonny and that was that! The couple have plenty of outdoor space for him and he has already been on his first holiday with them. Luckily, David has a strong right arm to hang on to strong Sonny when he is on the lead and smells an interesting scent. Caroline added, "Sonny is a nice, affectionate big dog and we just love him to bits. We recently lost a dog Dave had for 15 years but now we have Sonny in our lives. When we searched and found the same dog I suppose it was just meant to be!"

ADOPTING A SENIOR DOG.....

Older dogs are often the hardest to rehome. Most people are wary of taking on a senior because they fear losing the dog and the grief that loss will inevitably bring. However, rather than worrying about loss, think of the joy and comfort you can give to a wee golden oldie who has been left alone in the twilight years. The oldest dog PADS ever rehomed was a 16 year old called Mickey, who found a place in the heart of an elderly gent in Errol. The most recent adopter of a senior dog is myself, who has given a home to Eddie, a 14 year old Lhasa Apso who was left alone in the aftermath of a family bereavement.

The wee chap was scared and confused. Now however, he has settled into his new home with confidence and trust. He eats well, sleeps like a log, loves his walks and enjoys being cuddled. I am happy to give this little guy a loving retirement and I shall not fear for the future! *Alison Kennedy (Chair, PADS)*



Wee Eddie may have reached the autumn of his life but he still enjoys a play in the golden fallen leaves near his new Perthshire home.



DOT



DYLAN



KEISHA



MERLIN



MISTY



PROUD HUMANS SENT US THESE SNAPS OF THEIR DOGS WITH THE ROSETTES THEY WON IN PADS' VIRTUAL DOG SHOW IN AUGUST. BUT HOW MUCH DO THESE KIND FOLK ACTUALLY KNOW ABOUT THE DOGS THEY LOVE? HERE ARE A FEW SURPRISING FACTS

FACT

Next time your dog snuggles up and licks your ear it's not just because it thinks of you only as a reliable food dispenser. Your dog really does love you. Using MRI scans, researchers found that the same region of the brain responsible for positive emotions in humans is activated in dogs as well. Dog lovers instinctively know this, but now we have proof that our best friends are sentient creatures just like us.

FACT

How does your dog show its love? If it senses you are upset it will climb up on your lap. It will sometimes stare at you - prolonged eye gazing is an attempt at bonding. It will try to herd you all together for protection on a family outing and it will get excited when it hears your name.

FACT

A dog's sense of smell is up to 100,000 times better than ours. Last month Covid 19 sniffer dogs at Helsinki Airport picked out a number of people as positive. Tested in the usual way later, they were negative. But after a few days these people started to report Covid symptoms. The Finnish dogs had identified the Covid infection at a much earlier stage than the conventional virus test completed in the laboratory!

FACT

Dogs keep humans healthier. A survey of 300,000 Swedish heart and stroke patients revealed that the mortality rate among patients who lived alone but had a dog was a third lower than those without a pet. A researcher on the project said, "If a dog was a drug it would make a pharmaceutical company very, very rich!"

FACT

You cannot predict the behaviour of an individual dog based solely on its breed. No dog breed is naturally aggressive. They can all be friendly with the right training and upbringing! Also, personality and friendliness is the same in both male and female dogs.

FACT

Dogs can display extraordinary loyalty, and the famous Greyfriar's Bobby is not the only one! After his beloved master died, a Spanish dog called Canelo retraced three times a week for the next 12 years the steps the two of them had taken to hospital in Cadiz for the man's dialysis treatment. And in Tokyo there is a statue of a dog called Hachiko who, after his owner died, returned every day at the same time to the same station where he had always met his owner home from work. Loyal Hachiko did this for nine years.

OBELISK



NOODLE



PIXIE



RILEY



SEAMUS



TAZ





CONGRATULATIONS to Simon and Chrissie Fairclough of PERSIE GIN, whose aromatic Labrador Gin - one of the company's dog range - was voted Best Gin in Scotland by Scottish Field Magazine. Eski, an incredibly cute ten week old black Lab puppy and already a keen PADS supporter, sends her huge congrats too! **OUR THANKS** also to PERSIE, for this wonderful small company based in Bridge of Cally gives our charity £1 for every bottle of dog gin they sell. They are our key sponsors and we are very grateful for this very welcome boost to our income. **AND GOOD LUCK** Keep on selling those marvellous gins with the gorgeous aromas and dazzling tastes!

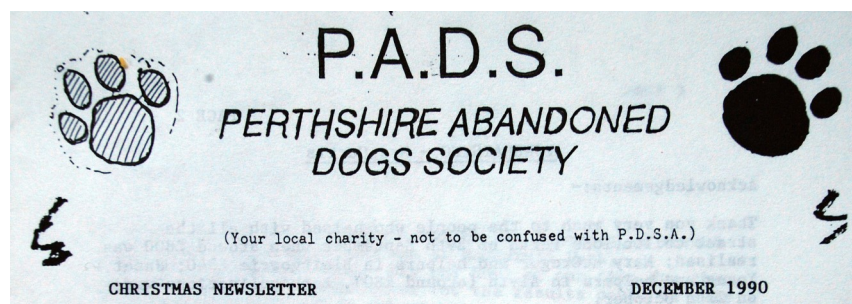
It has been a very bad time for all of us. A year ago no one had even heard of Covid 19 and now we hear about little else. Like most other charities, all our events this year had to be cancelled. For PADS it was a real blow, for 2020 is our 30th anniversary as Perthshire's own dog rescue charity. It would have been great to get the chance to celebrate the occasion. It was a time for memories too. See below for a picture of part of one of our first newsletters, recording the completion of the kennels which had just opened its welcoming doors to stray dogs.

Although the kennels at Forteviot were up and running 30 years ago, in 1990, the official opening did not take place until June, 1991. This fact may give us an excuse for a celebration event next year! Let's hope so!

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

150 years ago a US senator and skilled orator named George Graham Vest, from Frankfort, Kentucky, said with great passion in a speech,

"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog."



The kennels are complete and we await the District Council calling out to make a final drain test when we should get our Completion Certificate. The official opening will have to be postponed until the Spring as the weather is too inclement to contemplate having one now. The main thing is that the kennels are complete for the dogs.

