



...the charity
that rescues
and rehomes
unwanted dogs!

PADS NEWS

WINTER 2023-2024

HERE'S ONE FOR THE ALBUM!



Of all the pictures taken at our recent SCRUFFS DOG SHOW, we loved this one best of all! Ten year old Eva Baxter's cute painted face and mischievous grin contrasts perfectly with the super-cool, haughty looks of her beloved Chihuahuas, Diva (6) and Bambi (7). Eva, from Luncarty, was one of hundreds of dog lovers who came along to join the fun, with canine contests, craft stalls, delicious food for humans and tempting treats for their dogs. It was a great chance to show off our best pals, talk about dogs and to make new friends. Our annual show also has a very large weather – beating marquee as a shelter for all. See you next year! In the meantime, when the dreary winter blues strike, pick up your PADS NEWS and have a look at this happy snap – it is just bound to cheer you up!

THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THE STORY

It appears that UK dog owners care more about their best pals than folk in any other developed nation. An Australian survey of dog-related online searches puts UK dog owners first as folk who are interested in and care about their dogs. They love facts about the fattest, smallest, cutest, friendliest and oldest dogs. The latter, of course is the Portuguese Mastiff named Bobi who died in October, 2023, at the age of 31 years and 165 days. (There is an investigation under way about the truth of his age as vets cannot imagine him living 200 dog years!) And increasingly UK dog owners want to spoil their pets, creating a £2 billion per year pet industry. There are now many who will boost internet sales by buying a small luxury dog bed for £200, a fancy tartan coat for £135, venison and blackberry dog food at £1.10 per 100 grams. Online dog trainers advertise their skills at £100 per hour to train the English Bulldog pup that has cost £2,250. The list goes on. In contrast, at any given time 100,000 dogs are abandoned and homeless in the UK, a number increasing annually. There are more strays on the streets and due to crippling inflation, high interest rates and much more expensive veterinary treatment, all dog shelters are becoming hard pressed to cope. Dogs Trust say they have had thousands of calls in the last year from people wanting to give up their pets, many of them for the latter reason alone. All is not rosy on the dog front. At the time of writing, PADS kennels are full, something that has not occurred for a very, very long time. We wonder what the future holds.

VISITS TO PERTSHIRE ABANDONED DOGS SOCIETY KENNELS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. SEE OUR WEBSITE AT padsdogrescue.com TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT THE CHARITY, HOW TO GET ON OUR ADOPTION LIST, AND HOW TO DONATE. YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL US AT padskennels@btinternet.com OR CALL US AT 01764 684491. GET IN TOUCH ANY TIME, AND IF WE ARE BUSY WITH THE DOGS WE'LL CALL YOU BACK! WE ARE CHARITY SC011033



....HER NAME IS HAYLEY. SHE'S A LOVELY, LIVELY GIRL WHO HAS BEEN IN THE CARE OF PADS FOR TWO YEARS. SINCE THE CHARITY'S KENNELS OPENED 33 YEARS AGO NO OTHER DOG HAS BEEN WITH US AS LONG AS 5 YEAR OLD HAYLEY. SHE WOULD LOVE A FOREVER HOME, BUT HER CHANCES ARE GETTING SLIMMER AS THE TIME GOES BY. STATISTICS VARY, BUT PARTLY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC THERE ARE FULLY 10 PER CENT MORE PET DOGS IN THE UK THAN A DECADE AGO. AN INFLUX OF DOGS FROM EASTERN EUROPE, MANY NEEDING SOCIALISATION, HAS SWOLLEN THE NUMBERS EVEN MORE. THIS WINTER THERE WILL BE 11-12 MILLION DOGS LIVING WITH US IN OUR HOMES. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PERCENTAGE OF DOGS ABANDONED FOR ALL SORT OF REASONS, SO MORE DOGS WILL ARRIVE AT SHELTERS. IT IS ALREADY HAPPENING. AND BECAUSE SO MANY FOLK HAVE DOGS OF THEIR OWN, THERE ARE *FEWER* ADOPTERS OUT THERE TO GIVE THE HOMELESS ONES A NEW LIFE. HAYLEY WOULD LOVE A HOME OF HER OWN, BUT IF THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN SHE WILL BE LOVED AND CARED FOR AT PADS. **WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?**

HAYLEY came from Romania. She is a restless dog, with boundless energy. She is demanding, wants constant attention, and never seems to relax. PADS Manager Louise Perrett says, "She adores people and is a really nice dog and happy with other dogs when she is not on the lead. She is constantly on the go. We know she must sleep, but she re-arranges her kennel every night!"

However, HAYLEY does have one problem. Louise explains, "If she sees another dog when she is out walking she becomes frantic and would possibly attack that dog. She is very strong and very difficult to control in that situation. She goes out with TWO dog walkers!" For two years PADS staff have worked very hard to solve this problem, but HAYLEY stubbornly remains the same. As a result she is always passed by and has never had a chance for a forever home. Louise added, "I feel so sorry for her. I wonder if there is someone out there who could help solve this problem. It ruins her hopes and of course now the numbers of homeless dogs are increasing there are not so many homes available. There is a lot of competition for new homes!" Ideally, HAYLEY needs a strong, fit owner with a large, totally secure garden who doesn't mind leaving the door open so she can come and go as she pleases!



**HAYLEY IN ACTION.
SHE'S A NON-STOP
DOG!**

PICTURES BY AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER CRAIG CANTWELL

A PLEA FROM OUR DOG WARDENS

If there is an elderly relative in your family who has a dog, make sure that you make a plan to decide what happens to the animal when the old person dies. Dog Wardens are finding that an increasing number of dogs are being left high and dry because there is no plan in place to care for them. This situation occurs most frequently when an elderly person has dementia, needs to be taken into hospital urgently, or whose family live a distance away. Perth and Kinross Dog Control Assistant Judy Hayes told PADS NEWS, "Pets are never considered when care plans are put in place. This really requires a degree of forward thinking on behalf of the relatives to avoid the problem. Also, uncertainty on this can put huge stress on a sick elderly person who has no idea what will happen to a beloved dog when they are gone. It would mean a lot to know the dog will be safe and cared for. Best to plan ahead."

WE'VE GONE GLOBAL! - MEET OUR LONG DISTANCE DOGS!



ON THE LEFT, WITH HIS ADOPTER TERRY BLACKWELL, IS HOUDINI, FROM SUNNY SOUTH AFRICA. ON THE RIGHT IS BOB WITH HIS ADOPTERS, PERTSHIRE FARMER KEVIN GOURLAY AND HIS PARTNER EMMA CRAIG. BOB THE DOBERMAN CAME ALL THE WAY FROM CHILLY, SNOWY BELARUS.



After HOUDINI, a 9 year old Rhodesian Ridgeback-Staffie cross, had completed 6 months in quarantine in South Africa, he travelled 6,100 miles by air to join his owner in Scotland. Sadly, due to changed circumstances he came to PADS to seek a new home. He was adopted by retiree Terry who lives in Abernethy, and the two are the best of pals. Houdini is settling in well and learning not to pull so much on his lead! Terry tells us this rather amazing story. *“ Even when I am watching a dog programme on TV he never shows the slightest interest, even when the dogs bark. He just snoozes away on the sofa! However, just recently I was watching a wild life one about bush babies being fed by people in a small village. The film suddenly switched to a big dog who was barking. Within seconds, Houdini was sitting up, wide awake, staring at the screen, watching the dog and the bush babies. Couldn't take his eye off the scene before him. The programme had been made in South Africa! He must have recognized something in the big dog's bark which triggered some kind of a memory for him. It was quite incredible!”*

BOB came 1,750 miles overland from Belarus via Poland to Scotland and as you can see is now happy and settled 'down on the farm' near Gilmerton, by Crieff. Bob, who is 3, has joined Kevin Gourlay, his partner Emma Craig, their four young children and a lively 6 year old Hungarian Vizla called Willow. Kevin told us, *“When I met Bob at PADS I knew he was just the dog we wanted. I liked everything about him! He is a terrific dog!”* Bob had spent most of his previous life in kennels but now enjoys fun and freedom with his new family on the 5,000 acre farm. He is delighted to have the company of another dog and all these lovely folk! Says Emma, *“He gets on fine with the children and Willow. However, I can't turn my back on him in the kitchen otherwise anything edible will vanish in a flash. He is a big, lively lad with a huge appetite and loads of boundless energy. And we just love him!”*

PADS DOGS RECENTLY REHOMED..... **Tuck**, a 2 year old Lurcher went to Stirling, **Rocky**, a 2 year old Spaniel cross went to a rural home in West Perthshire and **Yogi**, a one year old Collie cross who was handed in to Perth Police Station, found a new home in Blair Atholl. Another Lurcher called **Callie**, a very shy one year old, went to live in Dundee. **Gloria**, a wee Jack Russell who was found by a roadside near Braco, was adopted by the kind folk who found her and **Dennis**, a grumpy Pomeranian, went off to live happily in Helmsdale in Sutherland. We wish

A NEW DOG THEFT LAW FOR SCOTLAND, which could see cruel thieves jailed for **FIVE YEARS**, is now in the pipeline. A recent consultation on the proposed legislation, which would make dog theft a specific crime, found that no less than 92.4 percent of respondents 'fully supported' the proposals of the bill. It is intended to deter this horrible crime, which causes enormous trauma and distress, with harsher sentencing. It is supported by the SSPCA, Dogs Trust, OneKind, Canine Concern Scotland, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Add to that list our little charity, PADS. We are sure you will agree!

BUSY LINDSAY'S KILT WALK FOR PADS

You would think Lindsay Robertson had enough to do in her hectic life. She has a demanding day job at busy car dealer Arnold Clark's in Perth and works for two evenings a week as receptionist at the prestigious Restaurant Andrew Fairlie in Gleneagles Hotel. Then there's a thriving antique business at Abernethy to supervise and a two-flat rental enterprise to organize and check on. Add to all that two young children, Lyle (8) and Lucy (9) to bring up and a home to run. Then there's the gardening. Phew! But despite all this she still found time to complete the recent Dundee Kilt Walk to raise £1,112.50 for PADS. "It was tough going. A full twenty miles", said Lindsay, "but I made it. I went with a pal and enjoyed every minute, although I must admit was a bit wearied at the end." Lindsay raised £556.25 and her employer, the dealership Arnold Clark doubled it – so many thanks to them too. How does she do it? "I enjoy my busy life. And I suppose I just have got used to getting on with it!" Our thanks to a lovely, kind lady with a terrific personality and a wonderful love of life – even although it's a very, VERY busy one!



The other two lights in Lindsay's life are hubby Stuart, a road contract delivery driver who runs Perth Railway Boxing Club in his spare time, and Mr T, her beloved 9 year old Bulldog. Says Lindsay, "Mr T is *always* looking for attention, so I always have to make time for him!"

All animal shelters, PADS included, are experiencing unprecedented pressure because of a 'perfect canine storm'. First there was Covid, when many people bought puppies who were later rejected. Then came rising energy prices and the cost-of-living crisis fuelled by global supply chain problems, inflation and high mortgage rates. Then rising Vet fees increased the burden on dog owners even more and now many people cannot afford to keep the dogs they have and sadly must give them up. Big charities like the SSPCA and Dogs Trust are appealing for foster homes for dogs simply because shelters are running out of space and many unwanted dogs have nowhere to go. On top of all this huge numbers of animals are coming into the UK because people want to adopt 'street dogs', mainly from Eastern Europe. It has been estimated that 300,000 homeless foreign dogs came into the UK last year. Inevitably, some of these become unwanted here again and end up in rescue centres looking for another new home. As a result of all this PADS, like other shelters, has become a great deal busier in recent times than we ever could have predicted only a few years ago. For a few days last month we had just one of our 26 kennels left! That was the same day in which we received 2 e-mails, one from a rescue centre in Slovakia and another from a dog charity in the small Arab state of Oman, which borders Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Both were asking for our help. It would appear that the shortage of homes for unwanted dogs is now a tragedy which is becoming global!

***If you wish to donate to us here in Perthshire, see our website at padsdogrescue.com
Our address is PADS, Station House Road, Forteviot, Perth, PH2 9BS.***

***There are many fun ways of raising money for your local animal shelter in Perthshire.
The wonderful kind lady above found just one of them!***