

PADS NEWS

SUMMER 2024



finding dogs their forever homes

PICTURE BY CRAIG CANTWELL

MEET BENJI THE COLLIE - A FAST DOG ON THE RUN

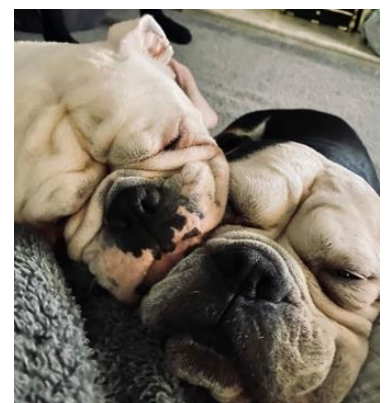


Lonely and miserable, 2 year old Collie Benji arrived at PADS via the police as a stray. Then along came Scott Bradley, who was to transform the young dog's whole life – and keep them both fit into the bargain! Just minutes after Scott arrived at PADS, Benji came straight for him, tail wagging furiously. The two of them went for a walk (with some treats, of course) and that was it! Best buddies. Says Scott, "I wanted to offer a young dog a good, active life and Benji is just loving it. It is really great to share the running I enjoy so much with such a terrific dog. He is nice and calm for a Collie and his recall is fantastic. Scott, who is an IT specialist, works from his rural home in Perthshire. "Benji tends to get a bit bored when I sit at a computer all day, so we go out – not for a walk of course but for a RUN. He just loves to run! The other night we did 25 minutes and 55 seconds as part of our training schedule for the races we take part in. He is a wonderful companion." He added, "The one thing he didn't like about his new life here in the countryside with me was the car! We fixed that, however, by putting favourite treats inside the vehicle and believe me, it worked absolute wonders!"

PICTURE BY BARRY MURPHY

Scott and Benji take part in Canicross, a winter running sport, with humans and dogs hitched together with harnesses in cross country races of 3-6 miles long. The idea came from Scandinavia, where people exercise sled dogs by summer running. Canicross became a sport in its own right in the UK. Scott says, "All the dogs in our first race organized by Forth Valley Canicross were happily competitive. There was no animosity and everyone got on fine!" In that race, Benji was 15th out of 80. In his second race he came 8th out of 30, enjoying every minute. Scott and Benji make a pretty fit pair. And Benji found the perfect home.

If you are thinking about running with your dog, however, keep the following in mind ... A survey done recently showed stamina results for some of our favourite breeds! A HUSKY, not surprisingly, can run an incredible 100 plus miles. (Don't even think about it! You would be left standing!) A strong, tough GERMAN SHEPHERD can easily top 20 miles. A BORDER COLLIE like BENJI comes third, at 8 plus. The wee JACK RUSSELL is quite able to tear along for 5 plus miles, closely followed by the enthusiastic GOLDEN RETRIEVER at 5. The COCKER SPANIEL and BORDER TERRIER can both cover 3-5 mile distances quite easily. The mighty GREYHOUND can just reach 1-2 miles, but remember, that's at a speed none of the others could possibly match. And surprisingly, the fluffy little BICHON FRISE, who otherwise enjoys tum tickles and cuddles on the sofa, can run from 1 to 2 miles non-stop! (There are no results for the CHIHUAHUA!) Sadly, the figure for the BULLDOG is a thumping NET ZERO. A gentle plod around the garden or a 1 minute stroll is about all the lazy chap can be bothered with!



No dog runs, thanks. I am ready for another kip! Don't disturb me again.

THE MORE PADS DOGS THE MERRIER!



Star adopters Alan and Lesley Stewart relax in their Perth home with their two Jack Russells, Max (blue collar on the left) and Maisie his mum (red one on the right). Max and Maisie are their 4th and 5th PADS dogs. It all started in 2009 with Sherry, a middle aged Jack Russell they loved for 7 years. Then, in 2014, along came Bella, a 4 year old Cocker Spaniel Lab cross. A year later they gave Wallace, a JRT cross, a lovely home. Sadly, in the winter of 2022-23 they were heart broken when they lost both of them and resolved to have no more dogs! However, a year later Lesley just happened to spot this delightful pair on PADS website, and the Stewarts' vow to remain dog free vanished overnight! Alan says, Two great wee dogs. We have loved them all. PADS has done so much for us!" Alan, just think of what you have done for all the PADS dogs you have given homes to! OUR THANKS.

May we introduce Andrew and Iona Burns and their stunningly elegant Lurcher Thor, who loves to pose for the camera! Thor is the young couple's 2nd Lurcher from PADS. The first was Bigby, whom they had for 6 years. "We are now very lucky to have Thor. He is just 17 months old but learning fast. He now gives a paw when asked and lies down when told." Thor was underweight with a skin condition when he came to PADS but thanks to a wonderful new life and great diet he is full of energy and his sleek black coat just shines! You would be correct to consider Andrew, who is a support worker for unpaid carers and Iona, a nursery teacher, as beginners in the dog adopting stakes. *However, watch this space!* The rehoming of dogs from PADS runs in the family and there could very well be more adopted dogs around the Burns' home in Perth in years to come! Andrew's mum Angela and dad Andrew now have their 3rd rescue dog from us, a Lurcher called Hughie. Before him there was Belle the Collie, then Rocco, a retired greyhound whom they had for 7 years.



You can tell from her graceful, relaxed pose and from a hint of that famous Staffie smile that Kleo is as happy as she could be with her new humans Paul and Pam Cowan in their lovely countryside home near Crieff. The lively 2 year old looks pretty pleased with herself too, for Pam and Paul have nothing but praise for her and her breed. Pam says, "Staffies are wonderful dogs. Kleo never leaves my side. She is loyal, intelligent, fine off the lead, and loves people and other dogs. We could not have had rescue dogs of a better breed than the Staffie!" Kleo is the couple's 4th Staffie from PADS. The first, a 13 year old blind and deaf dog called Flash came to them in 2011 for a retirement of two years, during which they got their 2nd Staffie, named Fagan. They lost him in 2022 and rescued Fiddle. When this picture was taken Fiddle, aged 14, was cuddled in his bed having a snooze. Since then he died, peacefully in his sleep one sad night. "We promised ourselves if we lost Fiddle we would find another Staffie to keep Kleo company." *I just know PADS will be looking for number 5! Just for you!*



***THIS BEAUTIFUL DOG
WAS DUMPED AT A
ROADSIDE ----BUT JUST
LOOK AT HER NOW/***

Cassie the Lurcher is perfectly relaxed, paw on adopter Billy Guthrie's chest and her favourite soft tiger toy by her side. Now she is a well loved pampered pet instead of something to be thrown away on the roadside like unwanted rubbish. Cassie will leave the fluffy sheepskin rug on the sofa soon, for dinner is due to be served at her lovely new home in Glasgow. The day she was dumped, alone and scared on a freezing Perthshire roadside is now only a very distant memory.

Cassie, as you can see, is happily settled in her new home. Her first couple of months there, however, were traumatic to say the least! Anne Guthrie explained, "A few weeks after we took Cassie home Billy fell and ruptured his Achilles Tendon. It's not an easy injury to heal and there was to be no dog walking for some time! I was confident that as a fit person I could cope with this lovely dog who had come into our home. Then just 2 weeks after Billy's accident I slipped on black ice while in the park and crashed to the ground, breaking 3 bones in my shoulder! This was the first time in my life I had broken anything and I couldn't believe it. Cassie didn't miss any walks, however, as my daughter came to the rescue and now all is well. Cassie is a wonderful dog. She walks beside me and if she runs comes straight back when I call. I felt I needed a dog in my life and I could not have found a better one!"



CASSIE THE LUCKY LURCHER wasn't the only dog in recent times who was dumped before being brought to PADS. **BOBBY**, a 6 year old Springer Spaniel was found at the roadside in Comrie. He now has a new home in Ladybank, Fife. **RUFUS**, a 2 year old Dobermann who was found wandering in Perth and who spent 2 years with us at PADS has finally gone to a forever home in Edinburgh. Most recently, however, was the case of **GEORDIE**, a 9 year old French Bulldog found running around on a road at Kinnoul Hill, Perth. He arrived at PADS where staff found that although his chip was Polish-registered no further information was available. However, the kind couple who found him on the street simply could not forget him and, being former PADS adopters decided to give **GEORDIE** a forever home with themselves and their other two dogs. Thank you Ian and Caroline Murphy, for your kindness and generous hearts! He will have a great life with you!

At PADS we are hoping that these despicable acts of dog dumping are not the beginning of a trend. It is, however, becoming clear that in the case of French Bulldogs like **GEORDIE**, abandonment is increasing at a frightening pace. A recent report from the RSPCA in England and Wales showed that the number of little Frenchies dumped rose from only 8 in 2020 to a staggering 582 in 2023. That's a rise of over 7,000%. While abandonments had also increased in other breeds none had experienced a rise as sharp as French Bulldogs.

They are still one of the most popular breeds, so why has this happened? One reason pinpointed by veterinary authorities is that because the wee French Bulldogs are bred to be flat faced dogs (brachycephalic) they are susceptible to far more health risks than other breeds, hence high vet bills and more expensive insurance. There is a big irony here. The popularity of the flat faced dog has taken a dive because the very characteristics owners crave are causing big bills they now cannot afford. The result? Abandonment! This is another tragedy in the making.



HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH A DEAF DOG?

Well, says Denis Hebden, *"For a start we have a sheet with 20 hand signs to learn. And we must master the most important one – how to get Billie's attention. A treat and then a handwave usually works."* The couple's dog trainer has emphasized that everything Denis and his husband David Marshall teach must be positive. He added, *"Billie is coming along well, but still has no road awareness. We are working on that!"* Billie, he says, is a lovely, lively dog who seemed to see everything as new when she came to her forever home with them in Perth.

Denis and David are both IT specialists and patient and devoted dog lovers. Billie has found exactly the right home where she can develop her ability to learn the new sign language and thrive despite her disability. The couple have taken on a real challenge, but we are sure they will give Billie the happiest and the best possible life she can have!

Billie, an 18 month old English Pointer cross who came to PADS when her owner was made homeless, is profoundly deaf. Now, she is fitted out with a GPS search device and cannot get lost. David added, *"She is very intelligent, and can easily open doors with the handles. I reckon she will pass all the sign tests with flying colours!"*

...AND HOW DO YOU COPE WITH A DOG PHOTO WALL THAT JUST GETS BIGGER BY THE DAY?



*"Well," says restaurateur Matt Bell, "it looks like we shall have to find another wall!" Since October 2022, there has been a warm welcome to dogs at the **THREE WITCHES TEAROOM** just south of Burrelton, Perthshire. Each new canine customer is photographed and its wee picture pinned to the dog wall. There are now well over 400 snaps and extra space is needed! The dogs are always served first with a water bowl and some treats before their humans choose from the tempting menu. Matt, who is a devoted dog lover says, "Dogs are a great joy in people's lives and they are absolutely welcome here. All the staff are dog lovers and enjoy giving our canine customers the best of service! In fact the restaurant is fast becoming a social centre for people and their dogs." PADS PEOPLE are always on the lookout for the best dog-friendly restaurants and we are delighted to put the **THREE WITCHES TEAROOM** top of our list!*

MEET OUR DOGWALKERS!

They are the behind-the-scenes volunteers with a very, very important job to do and to whom we owe our greatest THANKS! Front row left to right we have Jean Rennie, her granddaughter Jodie and Alison Macdonald, behind whom is her student son Callum. Macy, a 4 year old Australian Kelpie and everyone's favourite, is right there at the front. At the back is Scott Tares, who runs a cycling business called 'Skinny Tyres'. Scott, who started as a PADS dogwalker last year, says, "I do about 2 miles on my walks. This has been great for my physical and mental health!" Jean Rennie, whose young granddaughter Jodie is autistic, tells us, "She has been a dogwalker now for eight years. She absolutely loves it and it does her a lot of good." Alison Macdonald says, "Callum was doing the Boys' Brigade Queen's Badge, but couldn't continue that during Covid, so we came to PADS to walk the dogs. We loved doing it so much we kept coming and sometimes walk 5 of them. We get to know the dogs' stories." *There are another 4 dogwalkers on PADS list but they couldn't make it on this photo day! We shall get them in next time!*



A DOG WALKER'S DIARY

By Dr Julia Taylor, a Psychologist and Dog Trainer based in Dunning

I've often wondered what the PADS experience is like from the point of view of the dogs! Some of them have had a home, others have been passed around different homes, others are picked up on the streets before they come to the kennels. Either way, life at PADS is likely to be very different from anything they have known before. I hope they find the time they spend at PADS is a good one, filled with stability, cuddles and treats before they go on to find their 'forever homes'.

I first started walking dogs for PADS in August, 2023 because I love dogs and wanted to 'give something back'. I've had dogs all my life, have competed in dog sports and am a certified and insured dog trainer. I am lucky to be able to volunteer a little of my time. It is also a lovely opportunity for me to meet dogs of all shapes and sizes. I can spend some time with them once a week and do what I can to make sure they have a nice outing as well.

Walking dogs for PADS is always an adventure. I never know which dog will join me for a wander on any given day. Sometimes ones I expect to see when I arrive have been rehomed. There may be new arrivals, or others might have been walked already and are enjoying a little rest.

I like to think of every dog walk as a little expedition for me and the dog and think about how to make it a good outing. Thankfully, there are several nice options for walks around Forteviot and I try to pick a route that will, hopefully, make the walk a positive experience for the dog that day. For example, I take dogs that benefit from a quiet walk into the fields and head towards the river with those who are up for a 'sniffari' and a longer walk. Either way, I always bring lots of treats and poo bags, of course!

When new dogs arrive at PADS we often don't know how they will behave on walks, so we just have to try it out! Some reveal themselves to be the canine equivalent of professional walkers and will gladly walk with me wherever I go. Others are excited to go out but lack experience and might be a bit anxious about cars or other people. Sometimes there are dogs that are so worried they don't want to walk at all and just slam on the brakes as soon as a lead appears. I try to let the dogs enjoy the walks and have a good sniff while building a level of communication and trust with them.

Are we allowed to have favourite dogs? I'm not sure, but I definitely have one ...Macy! She was the very first dog I walked for PADS and to this day I love walking her. She is active and great fun and I love taking her to the river to play ball! She also loves a good cuddle, so we make sure to fit plenty of these in! I hope she finds a great home soon. I would take her home myself, but I know she is better suited to a home that doesn't already have a dog.

Sometimes I arrive at the kennels to find that a dog I have been walking has been rehomed. I know one day that will be the case for Macy as well, and while I am always sad that I didn't get to say goodbye, I am so happy for them. After all, PADS is just one chapter of their lives, and I am thankful for the walks I get to share with them!



AND



PERFECT PARTNERS!

PERSIE GIN IS ONE OF Scotland's most successful small distillery businesses. Profit, however, is not the only goal of this award winning enterprise. The defining characteristic of this producer of delicious flavoured gins is to help animal welfare. PADS is deeply grateful to

PERSIE's generosity over the last 6 years. As our sponsor the company gives us £1 for every bottle sold of its prizewinning Labrador, Spaniel and Dachshund gins and we know that for a year the PERSIE people will also extend their generosity to horses with their 'Unbridled Gin' for World Horse Welfare. Simon Fairclough says,

"Our relationship with PADS has shaped what our business is all about. We are a distillery with a purpose to help animals. Our biggest event of the year in Scotland is PADS 'Scruffs Dog Show. We see our relationship with PADS as a perfect partnership between a small local business and a local animal charity." From the PADS perspective, our thoughts are the same. Not only are we helped by PERSIE but we are delighted to work with a small company that we know genuinely cares deeply about the plight of abandoned dogs and our efforts to find them all forever homes. Thank you PERSIE!



HERE THEY ARE, the brains behind PERSIE, Simon and Chrissie Fairclough with Spaniel Mustard. PERSIE has been to CRUFTS 4 times. They were the first alcohol stall ever allowed in the 200 year old history of the world famous dog show. They were initially refused permission but when the CRUFTS folk were told about PERSIE and PADS, they relented. The next CRUFTS takes place in March 2025. PERSIE will be there for the fifth time with their lovely gin, happy smiles, warm greetings and a nice PADS poster too!



THANKS TO RICK TURNER

A firm dog lover, this keen young amateur boxer from Perth took part in a fundraising event in Dundee to raise cash online for PADS. His total came to £1,950.73, plus another £1,000 from his employer, Aviva. Whew! That's almost three grand! And in addition, Rick has just joined our PADS dogwalker team to help out on his days off. There are a few strong dogs with us Rick. That will keep you fit for the boxing ring!



THANKS TO DAISY DICK

The only dogs Daisy has is this bunch of cuddly soft toys. But the 8 year old from Crieff set out to raise cash for PADS. A fantastic total of £801.03! With her parents she walked 145 miles cross country last October, sponsored by friends and family. Mum Emily said, "It was her idea, and we all enjoyed it! Daisy has 3 cats. No dogs. Why did she decide to help PADS? Quite simple. Daisy explained, "I wanted to do this because I love all animals very much and want to help them if I can."



THANKS TO ROBERTO ABITBOL

Businessman Roberto runs Pluto of St Andrews, a popular vintage clothes and sports gear store. A devoted dog lover (as you can see), he wanted to help a dog shelter, chose PADS and donated £1,000 to our charity. Originally from Venezuela, Roberto fell in love with Scotland when he visited from London during Covid. It was his 10 year old Great Dane Pluto who gave his new business its name. His best pal and business partner!

finding dogs their forever homes

It is hard for anyone here at PADS to remember when our kennels have ever been so busy. Since last autumn we have been full many times, with not an inch of kennel space left. And now, for the very first time in PADS 33 year history we have a waiting list for dogs needing to be rehomed. This pattern follows almost every dog rescue charity in the UK. Early this year Dogs' Trust warned of a huge demand for shelter places as the rising cost of food, vet bills and insurance were making dogs too expensive to keep! This is a tragedy.

It is the result of a 'perfect storm' of costs such as these in the wake of the abandonment of large numbers of Covid puppies. The potential cost of keeping a dog has also slowed down the rehoming process. Record numbers of animals are coming to shelters and more are staying there for longer before they find new homes. One survey has found that dog related items last year suffered double the general rate of inflation. Two things must happen to ease the situation.

Firstly, the government should exempt pet food costs from the 20 per cent vat rate and ensure that some compassion and control be brought into the deeply worrying situation of ever rising vet fees.



There are times when a PADS rescue dog doesn't need to look far or wait too long for a new home. PADS Assistant Manager, Joanna High, had just started work at the charity 10 years ago when this little guy came along! Little Eddie, a long haired Chihuahua cross Boston Terrier, was found abandoned, lost, alone and wandering in a Perth car park. With a tear in her eye, Joanna remembers, *"We reckoned he was just 5-6 weeks old. I took him home and he has been with me ever since. I just couldn't bear the thought of this wee soul waiting for an adoption."* A few months later, a Tibetan terrier named Lucy arrived at PADS. She was terrified to be in the kennels with all the other dogs, so Lucy followed Eddie into Joanna's care at home and stayed put! *"We did have a grumpy Border Terrier at the time, but eventually they all became good pals!"*

PADS 'SCRUFTS' DOG SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 17 AUGUST, 2024, AT ROLLO PARK, DUNNING. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 11 AM. THIS IS A BIG DATE FOR THE DOG DIARY!

VISITS TO PADS (PERTHSHIRE ABANDONED DOGS SOCIETY) 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 EMAIL US AT padskennels@btinternet.com OR CALL US AT **01764 684491**. IF WE ARE BUSY WITH THE DOGS WE'LL CALL YOU BACK. WE ARE CHARITY SC011033.