

PADS NEWS

WINTER 24-25



...finding dogs their forever homes

Picture by Craig Cantwell

SCRUFFTS !

A SHORT STORY OF THE PADS DOG SHOW 1997-2024

HAPPY SNAPS FROM SCRUFFTS 2024!



BIG SMILE

From little Emilia Sneddon, whose Cavapoo Nala, aged 4, won the prize for the best-dressed dog. Nala's stunning pink lace gown stole the show thanks to her amazing canine fashion sense!



BIG SMILE

From Glenn Sharpe from Fife with Dachshunds Arthur (3) and Steve (7) who helped out at Dad's Long Dog Candle Company stall on the day. Check out those dazzling dog eyes!



BIG SMILES

From Ron and Geraldine Russell with Jack, their enthusiastic shaggy Jack Russell, who has just discovered to his delight that he has won for himself the HUGELY prized SCRUFFTS title of SCRUFFIEST DOG!

AN APPEAL went out in the charity's newsletter which at the time was named 'The Mongrel'. It read, 'PADS is organizing a dog show. We appeal to all dog-showing members of the charity to please help us, since we have not done this before. All dogs are welcome.' This was in 1997. The show was planned for July in that year and the venue was a charity gala day in Pitlochry. The weather was awful. Dark clouds, mist and rain persisted throughout the day. Dogs and owners were soaked. A PADS founder member recalls, "We had a wee tent with a table to take details of our 20 – odd canine competitors and another tiny tent with a stall to sell a few things. We got through it, however, and did the best we could for our first dog show!"

FIVE YEARS later the annual show, named SCRUFFS, had found a permanent venue in Rollo Park, Dunning, where it had added a few stalls, face painting and a bouncy castle for the kids. Time went by and over the years the show grew in size and popularity to provide a happy day out for owners and dogs - cross breed, mixed breed and pedigree all taking part together. NOW CALLED SCRUFFTS we offer 30 plus stalls and dog charity tents, pasties and pizzas, music, agility trials and a whopping great 45 metre marquee to shelter everyone from hot sun or wet weather. There is no entry fee so we are unable to count dog numbers accurately, but estimate we now welcome between 170-200 dogs on the day! The love of dogs has expanded over the years and our show has expanded with it. We are delighted to observe the joy which comes from the interaction of a host of dog owners. There is nothing they love more than meeting others who adore dogs as much as they do. PADS SCRUFFTS show is a truly happy event which we hope will be in action far into the future, still producing big smiles like those on the left. In 27 years we have only had to cancel 3 shows, one due to flooding and 2 to Covid lockdowns.

**PADS SCRUFFTS DOG SHOW IS
ON SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2025
AT ROLLO PARK, DUNNING.
(Get that date in your diary!)**

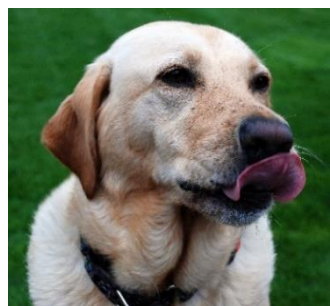
DOGS' DINNERS HAVE NEVER BEEN SO GOOD!

- IS YOUR BEST FRIEND READY FOR THE NEW TREND IN EXPENSIVE DOG FOODS?

WE DID A LIGHTEARTED SURVEY ON CHEAP AND EXPENSIVE DOG FOODS WITH (L-R) LIZZIE THE SCHNAUZER, RUBY THE GOLDEN LAB AND HANDSOME MIXED BREED TERRY. EACH WERE OFFERED TWO BOWLS - ONE OF CHEAP AND ONE OF EXPENSIVE FOOD.....!



Wee Lizzie got one shot. She made a beeline for the cheap kibble at £1 per kilo and ate the lot. She then devoured the other one, 8 times the price. Then it was back to the cheap dish to see if there was anything left. Winner : the cheap brand.



Ruby the Lab got two tries. She enjoyed the cheap kibble first, then ate the one at 4 times the price. She then scooped up a cheap wet food first, followed by a chicken casserole at 3 times the price. Cheap was the first choice both times. Both were consumed quickly and with joy (but remember, Ruby is a Lab!)



Terry crunched at cheap kibble first. After a sniff at the expensive one it was back to the cheap bowl to scoff the rest. Only then did he finish the kibble 4 times the price. But when Terry took the wet food test, a dish at 8 times the price of the cheap one was his first choice!

'HOW ABOUT a delicious duck and herb casserole with parsley, mint, oregano, sunflower oil, yucca extract and cranberry? **DESSERT?** We have a Krispy Crème Doughnut with a special decoration!'

If you are tempted, forget it! These mouth watering dishes are for your dog, not for you!

We are now in the age of a revolution in dog food and the 'humanisation' of canine nosh which matches our own diets. Dog food is very, very Big Business, reaching out to 'pet parents' who will pay to give their dogs the best on the market. We reckon some of the luxury brands could be served up in a posh restaurant and the customer might not even know the difference!

Now 12 million UK households have a dog. Of these, a quarter were acquired since the start of the pandemic. Since 2018 pet food deliveries to UK doors have more than doubled. One UK home delivery dog food business set up in 2016 is now worth £500 million. In 2022 the UK pet food market was valued at £3.3 billion. By next year, 2025, it will have boomed to around £4.75 billion. Gone are the days when dog food choice was restricted to a few mass market brands costing maybe £1 for a 400g tin of 'meaty' chunks in gravy. Now the choice is huge, whether you buy in the supermarket or the internet. PADS NEWS online investigation found one brand of (no doubt) excellent raw dog food from Europe costing £19.99 for just 300g. If your dog happens to be a Chihuahua this might be possible for a few days, but to feed a Tibetan Mastiff, or even a hearty Lab would clearly be financially ruinous for the average pet parent! Not all, of course are as expensive as this, but many of the new-style kibbles, for example, are often 3, 5 or 10 times the cost of the average kilo of dried food in the local supermarket.

The new superfoods not only sound irresistible and jaw-watering for the dog, they are advertised as being human grade and ethically sourced. It seems not only are they good to eat, they make your dog healthier while at the same time helping to save the planet. One advert insists, 'We wouldn't give our beloved pets what we wouldn't eat ourselves...' Another tempts us to 'join the pet nutrition revolution' and buy 'delicious food ...ethically made by expert vets to bring your pet lasting health and happiness.' And another assures the pet parent of finding 'firmer poos!' Some now include insect protein in their recipes. In others the lists of vitamins and minerals are far too long to include here. Treats also are packed with taste and goodness. Your dog may enjoy, 'Lip smacking soft deli sausage slices of British venison with hand harvested seaweed.' Or human grade watermelon and apple dental sticks! Wow!

What do the vets think? Expensive or cheap? 'Difficult question. Diet does have a big effect on a dog's health, so buy the best quality you can reasonably afford from a reputable brand. Most dogs are fine on standard cheaper dog food, but if you want something better for them, pay a little more.'



MEET LOVELY SOFIA, THE EX-SHOWGIRL WHO IS LEARNING FAST HOW TO BE A REAL DOG!

MOST dogs love barking, tearing around a garden, rolling in the grass to have a tummy tickled, chewing on a treat, playing, walking, chasing a rabbit and grinding teeth on bone. Sadly however, Sofia, who is now 10 and adopted by Lesley Hunter and her husband Niven, was denied all these dog delights during her career as a show dog. She lived with many other dogs and was well looked after. She stayed mostly in kennels, had puppies and strutted her stuff at dog shows on her best behaviour. She was never a huge star like an uncle who won at Crufts but was placed well at many shows. Sadly, the owner of all the dogs died, the 'family' was split up and Sofia came to PADS, ignorant of all the joys of a dog's life! Lesley tells us, *"At age 10, she is learning to be a dog! She was terrified to do anything on her own at first. Then, one day she noticed something in the shrubbery and ran, barking, towards it. She wouldn't walk far at first, but now loves to go out and meet other dogs. She is getting the hang of chewing treats and enjoys playing. She is at my side mostly all the time and I can see the complete transformation of Sofia. She was well looked after before but missed out on the many delights of a dog's life. Gradually she is making up for all that lost dog-time."* Sofia is a lovely, affectionate, sweet dog who could not have found a better home. She revels in her freedom and is learning how to make the best of it! Lesley is the perfect 'coach', kind, patient and eager to get Sofia on the right track to enjoy her new life as a real dog, a dog who clearly Lesley adores!



Sofia on the run!

There are a couple of old habits Sofia will most likely always retain, says Lesley with a smile, *"When we meet a person on our walks, she reverts to her 'show walk', head up, strutting along and posing! The other thing she does is pee on command! This is a show thing I suppose!"*

MEET GEORGE, THE LUCKY STRAY WHO WAS IN JUST THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME!

It was rather an odd sight, a funny wee French Bulldog with grey whiskers running around on the road in a residential area in Perth. Dog lover Caroline Murray stopped her car, got out and went over to him. *"He was a friendly little chap. There was a collar, but nothing on it."* She then called at several nearby houses, but no-one recognized the dog. *"One neighbour gave me a dog lead and I went back to him and he jumped into the car quite happily."* Her next stop was Tay Valley Vets in Perth, from where he went to PADS. *"No one came to claim him and it was decided he had been abandoned."* Caroline and her husband Ian had lost their beloved PADS dog Sadie, a lurcher, just 2 months before this encounter. Caroline couldn't get the wee stray out of her mind. The decision was made. The wee chap, now called George, joined Caroline, her husband and their 6 year old Lab Molly at their countryside home in Perthshire. George now has a lovely home, a great pal in Molly, and two adoring humans to fuss over him. It was meant to be. Fate took hold that sunny day in Perth and gave George (aged about 9) his new life.



SKYE - THE BRAVE LITTLE DOG WHO FOUND A FOREVER HOME



THAT'S SKYE ON THE RIGHT, with her new family, Jane and Mark Bonar, their son James, daughter Catherine and new very best friend Theo the spaniel, who is 7. The two dogs play together in the Bonars' lovely big garden.

When Skye the Cocker Spaniel arrived at PADS she was just a 'poor wee soul'. Her coat was matted, she was thin and undernourished and there was a large red lump on her right eye, called 'cherry eye'. This is a painful condition which covers part of the eye and in the UK affects one in roughly 500 dogs. Wee Skye, aged 2, didn't let this spoil her lovely personality. She is a friendly, affectionate, loveable wee dog and PADS' staff all adored her. This is Skye's story...



IF YOU LOOK CLOSER you can see the sunshine glinting on Skye's right eye, which is clear and healthy with no sign of the ugly large red lump which could have endangered her sight without surgery and treatment.

SKYE'S NEW LIFE.

SKYE LANDED firmly on all four paws when the Bonar family decided to give her a wonderful home. She gets all the attention she craves, 3 walks per day, endless fun and play with Theo, the best of nutrition and the safety and security of a forever home for the rest of her life. Jane Bonar says, "She now acts just like a puppy. We didn't intend to become a 2-dog family, but that's the way it worked out and we adore her. She is a lovely dog! She and Theo, our other Cocker Spaniel get along just fine and have a great time together. Now we all cannot imagine life without Skye!"

We are sure that giving a home to this little dog called Skye was somehow meant to be." Jane explained, "Every year we have trips to a tiny, remote cottage in the north west of Scotland. It's a beautiful place with fantastic scenery and beaches. Miles from anywhere. There's no electricity so no internet. Fantastic! We love it and it just happens to be on the Isle of SKYE! The 2 dogs are in heaven there!"

Skye will be on eye drops for the rest of her life, but that will mean she can see clearly the world around her and the loving family who gave her the happiness she deserved.

Jane added, "Skye is desperate for affection from us. Maybe that's due to all she has been through in recent times!"

HOW IT HAPPENED

When Skye arrived at PADS it was clear she would need surgery on her 'cherry eye'. This problem affects dogs in the UK every year, most of them 'flat faced' dogs such as Bulldogs, but also in certain breeds of Spaniel. It is caused by damage or infection related to the 'third' eyelid which every dog has to protect the eye like a curtain or a windshield wiper. Untreated, cherry eye can result in ulcers and corneal damage, affecting sight.

Skye had 2 operations in St Clair vets in Kirkcaldy and treatment from PADS own Tay Valley vets in Perth. It was there in Perth that young Catherine Bonar was in training to become a vet nurse and there she came to know Skye! She brought Skye home after each op to recuperate and be fostered until she recovered. It wasn't long, however, until the family fell head over heels for the brave little dog and the adoption process was completed. Catherine said, "She really is a lovely dog and it was a pleasure to help her recover. Now we can care for her always!"

PADS is grateful to St Clair Vets in Kirkcaldy for their generosity in time and help for Skye.

Since PADS kennels opened almost 35 years ago we estimate we have found forever homes for around 8,300 dogs. Thousands of people have given new lives to homeless dogs over these years. Our thanks to all of them, and to you, the most recent, the Hunters, the Murrays and the Bonars on these pages. You are the best! We send you our heartfelt gratitude!



THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

As dog lovers, many of you will have heard of the Rainbow Bridge. It's the entrance to pet paradise, a lovely, quiet meadow to which your beloved dog goes when it dies. There, restored to perfect health and free from injuries, he or she enjoys fresh food and water in a safe place where the sun is always shining. When a dog dies that has been very close to you, it will be waiting for you across the Rainbow Bridge when your time comes. It is a memorial to the animal you have lost, a place to visit and remember, a quiet place to lay flowers or to scatter ashes. The Rainbow Bridge pictured here was opened recently to span Blair Burn in Comrie, West Fife by the West Fife Woodlands Group. The idea to create a pet memorial like this comes from America * but this Fife bridge is the first in the UK. There are benches for visitors and a plinth on which they can attach small plaques with their dogs' names. *PADS thanks the group for this lovely memorial.* The death of a beloved dog is deeply traumatic and this will be a focal point for many people who need to find comfort and solace in their grief.

Most of us know how it feels. There is that eerie emptiness in the house, the half full water bowl, the dog toys scattered under the kitchen table. After a few days we get that strange movement at the corner of the eye, followed closely by the realisation that there's no dog there any more. If your beloved dog was euthanized, to your grief is added the guilt. *'Did I do the right thing? Did I wait too long? Was it too soon?'*

This dear dog had been a companion and a friend who could sense our moods, comfort us and give unconditional love and hope in the bad times. That wonderful bond has been broken forever and the grief we feel is unbearable. This is often made worse by what's called 'disenfranchised grief', meaning a sorrow which is not always recognized by society at large. Grief is minimized by comments like *'It's just a dog. Why don't you get another one?'* This reaction can brutally isolate dog owners who are experiencing the acute pain of losing their best friends.

For some, the grief at the death of a dog is worse than that of losing a family member, a fact that has been recognized for a long time now. It fits in with a new theory, that in our modern world the boundary between pets and the human family is becoming 'fuzzy'. Glasgow – born vet and author Gareth Steel notes that people are now referring to themselves as 'pet parents' with 'fur babies'. The emotional involvement they have with their dogs, he says, is almost human-like and in some cases of loss even more traumatic than losing a family member. However, the most dramatic change in peoples' attitude to dogs and other pets within the home is taking place in South Korea, which has the lowest birth rate in the world, at 0.7% per woman. There, many young people are choosing dogs instead of children and buying more push chairs and food for dogs rather than for human offspring. Indeed the country's declining population is now regarded as a national emergency. One Korean 'pet parent' said, *"It's about being able to give and receive love endlessly."* This certainly is the case in another emerging trend, to clone your dog to avoid the inevitable loss. In the US, this is booming and, as just one example, Barbara Streisand has been reunited with her tiny, fluffy, French – born Coton de Tulear, not once but twice. A dozen or so UK residents have already bought cloned dogs, including one woman who paid almost £40,000 for a replica of her Schnauzer because *'I couldn't live without him'*. For the rest of us the only solution is to do the best we can for them while they pass through our lives. They are joy when we have them and heartbreak when we lose them. We must accept that dogs are not forever and remember the hope and comfort of the Rainbow Bridge.

* One of the first US Rainbow Bridges, near Chimney Rock in Western North Carolina, was swept away in 2024 by Hurricane Helena along with thousands of leads and collars left by owners. A distraught onlooker at the site said, *"A memorial to the love between dogs and their owners has been turned to heartache."*

WOULD YOU BELIEVE THE THINGS SOME FOLK DO TO HELP PADS?



TRIATHLON

Vets from Perth Katie Jones and Ruth Burns, swam 500 metres in chilly Loch Ore in Fife. Then they cycled off-road for an exhausting 10 km. They finished off with a 3 km cross country run to make 1st and 2nd senior in the Triathlon. *"We did a lot of training and were delighted to finish well."* The 2 best pals raised **£904.63 for PADS**

SKY DIVE

Nurse Rachel Isdale leapt fearlessly from a plane 10,000 ft up to help our charity! The parachute jump was a Xmas present from her husband and her mum. *"The best present I ever had. It was fantastic! What a view of Perthshire!"* Pictured here with her proud little daughter Thea, (3) she added, *"It was truly unforgettable. Would do it again!"*



Rachel raised **£401.25 FOR PADS**



20 MILE KILT WALK

Heather Rutherford took time off from running her busy Bridge Of Gaur Guest House to complete the 'Mighty Stride' Kilt Walk in Edinburgh. *"The weather was lovely and I only got one tiny blister on one foot,"* she said as she cuddled her 8 year old PADS dog Finn. *"It was great!"* Heather raised **£356.25 for PADS**



STRATHEARN MARATHON 26.2 MILES

First time marathon runner Laura Flynn has a tough job as a railway conductor PLUS a small business making and selling lovely colourful dog accessories! On top of all that she trained for 6 months for the gruelling Strathearn Marathon and finished the 26.2 miles. Pictured with her Cockapoo, Archie (6), she said, *"I was the last person over the line but I made it!"* This heroic dog lover raised **£1,517.50 for PADS.**

A GRAND TOTAL OF £3,179.63 – THANKS GIRLS FOR YOUR AMAZING EFFORTS!

- finding dogs their forever homes

A HUGE gap is forming between the haves and the have-nots of the canine population. AT THE TOP END OF THE SCALE well off folk think nothing of spending £570 on a cashmere unisex sweater, paying £600 for a designer outdoor jacket or shelling out £16 for a kilo of gourmet treats, all for their dog! On sale as you read is a designer diamond cut crystal food and water bowl 'creating surprises and bringing joy into the world of our 4 legged friends'. Really? And the price of this luxury? A staggering £1,350! The most expensive dog sold in recent times was an 11 month old Tibetan Mastiff weighing 180 lb called Big Splash, who cost his new Chinese owner \$1.4 million (£1,146,292.50 in sterling).

Dogs are big business in this wealthy world. Sadly, however, AT THE BOTTOM END there are no luxuries, just a ceaseless flow of dogs coming to shelters like PADS all over the UK. Many owners are unable to keep their pets due to the cost of food, insurance and vet fees. This tragic procession of unwanted dogs, some neglected, some deeply traumatised, some dumped by a roadside, is the result of bad choices made in the Covid period and an appalling cost of living crisis. For many people, dogs are now too expensive to keep and it is heartbreaking to know that we have to take in animals who come to us for that reason. We are always busy now, with a waiting list of dogs who need us to help them find new homes. All we can do is our very best for them until things change for the better, if they ever do!



Picture by Craig Cantwell

OUR STAFF AND THEIR OWN DOGS

– Meet Caroline Black and Chuy the Chihuahua, whose pedigree name is Silver Knight Star, a grand name for a fluffy wee chap! Caroline says, “He came to PADS when he was just 9 months and is now 7. He had been with an elderly couple who just couldn’t cope and for me it was love at first sight! He was such a bonny wee dog and it was so sad that he was alone in the world. He’s a bit nervous with other dogs but he loves people, especially children. Yes, he comes to work at PADS kennels with me and enjoys the company! He is very affectionate and loves his cuddles! We named him after a Mexican friend whose name is Jose. Chuy is Mexican Spanish for that name. Yes, one of these days I may get another dog to keep him company. Who knows?”

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 E-MAIL US.

WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS – info@padsdogrescue.com

CALL US ON 01764 684491. IF WE ARE BUSY WITH THE DOGS WE’LL CALL YOU BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN. WE ARE CHARITY SC011033.

**PADS ‘SCRUFTS’ DOG SHOW IS ON SATURDAY, 16 AUGUST 2025
AT ROLLO PARK, DUNNING. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 11AM
(ANOTHER REMINDER FOR THE DOG DIARY ...)**