

PADS NEWS

SUMMER 2025



...finding dogs their forever homes

Picture by Craig Cantwell

- DOG ISSUES - - - - DOG ISSUES - - - - DOG ISSUES -

Since PADS came into being 35 years ago life at the kennels has radically changed. Technology, economic pressures, social media, rules and regulations, vet fees, expensive dog food, have all affected our work at the charity and the lives of our dogs. But has anything really got better? In the PADS newsletter of December 1991, printed 18 months after the kennels opened, this was reported of the first 3 winter months. *'This has been our busiest time ever. There are 35 dogs and puppies in our care. In the same period a year ago we had 15. We have cared for 45 dogs directly from owners - and this is only the tip of the iceberg. The phone rings incessantly with people calling to ask PADS to take and rehome their dogs.'* In this respect, nothing has changed. Recently our charity had to set up a waiting list for people wishing to give us their dogs and find new homes for them. What is going on and are there ways to decrease dog abandonment?

BOOM AND BUST?

The estimate is that the demand during Covid added 3.5 million dogs to the UK canine population. This was no doubt a BOOM for breeders good and bad.

Now, however, the perfect storm of the cost of living, huge increases in vet fees and rising taxes has dampened the demand for dogs. Are breeders now feeling the pinch? This possibility can be illustrated by an astonishing event earlier this year in South Wales, where 28 dogs were dumped in three towns. The belief is that the dogs, all under 3 years old were abandoned by a large scale breeder. It looked as if the 'dump' was carefully planned. Sara Rosser, of Hope Rescue said, "We are concerned that this was a coordinated dumping across the area. We have never seen anything like it before."

It could be the lucrative boom has gone decidedly bust for some people in the dog breeding business, resulting in yet another reason to abandon dogs.

YOUR FINAL GIFT

When you make your will, don't forget your best friend, your dog. Many families are thrown into indecision when an elderly person dies without having given instructions about what should happen to a beloved dog. We are too small to offer such a service, but Dogs Trust can supply a Canine Care Card to care for and rehome a beloved companion. Leave instructions in your will and you will have peace of mind that when you die this special 'legacy' will take care of the best friend who outlives you.

Well, early this year it was announced that the Scottish Government's new Welfare of Dogs bill would promote a Code of Practice for obtaining a dog. The idea is to increase responsible ownership by making sure that people are clear about the commitment required before they take on a pet dog. This would entail the signing of a certificate by the new owner and the person from whom they are getting the dog. The questions to the prospective owner on one side of a sheet of paper include: Is the breed right for you? Can you house it properly and exercise it enough? Can you afford the costs and commit to caring for it all its life?

This, we think, is a laudable attempt to reduce abandonment and promote responsible ownership. However, it is NOT a licence or a legally binding document, simply something which is hoped will make people think carefully before taking a dog. All rescue centres are acutely aware that some kind of solution should be found to decrease the tragic abandonment problems now facing us. We are not certain this approach goes far enough, but at least it's a start!





**CRAIG CANTWELL'S
PICTURES OF DOGS
ARE BEAUTIFUL,
ALMOST MAGICAL. IT
IS NO WONDER HE IS
SCOTLAND'S TOP PET
PHOTOGRAPHER. HE
HAS AN UNCANNY
EMPATHY WITH DOGS
WHICH WORKS
MIRACLES WHEN HE
GETS BEHIND THE
CAMERA. PADS IS
LUCKY TO HAVE HIM
AS A LOYAL
SUPPORTER!**

**WANT TO TAKE
GOOD DOG
SNAPS? HERE
IS SOME
ADVICE FROM
CRAIG...**

**1 - GET TO EYE LEVEL
OR BELOW TO TAKE
THE SHOT. 2 - USE
FLASH, GOOD WITH
DARKER DOGS. GET
CLOSE IF USING A
PHONE.
3- FIND A TREAT OR
TOY TO GAIN
ATTENTION.
4- BE PATIENT! TAKE
YOUR TIME!
5 - THIS IS MOST
IMPORTANT! NO
IMAGE IS EVER WORTH
TAKING IF IT STRESSES
THE DOG OUT. YOUR
DOG HAS TO BE
RELAXED, NOT
NERVOUS AND
SCARED. A HAPPY
DOG MEANS YOU WILL
GET GREAT IMAGES.
GOOD LUCK!**

FROM A TINY, NERVOUS CHIHUAHUA TO A WHOPPING GREAT ROTTWEILER WITH ATTITUDE...from a fluffy Westie pup to a grey, whiskered Lurcher senior...and from a sleek Whippet to a chubby Staffie cross with bandy legs...Craig Cantwell has photographed them all! It began back in 2018 when he took time out from his photography studies for a Higher National Diploma at college in Dundee to raise money for PADS by taking dog portraits in Perth. "I booked a room for the day and brought in two studio lights. I had never done studio photography before! We thought we might get a dozen or so owners coming with their dogs *but 84 turned up*. I photographed all of them bar 2, who were just too nervous. The rest were fine. They all stayed still and well-behaved." At the end of this shutter-clicking marathon, the opinion was that Craig had a deep empathy with his canine clients which suggested a future career as a pet photographer. It was that day he decided to drop his studies and take the plunge! Craig has never looked back. He wanted to become the best and he did. In 2021 and 2022 he won the Scottish Pet Industry Award for Best Pet Photographer in Scotland. He is a busy guy with a great career, although an accident 18 months ago slowed him down for a while! It happened during work and came, literally, 'out of the blue'!

Craig remembers, "I was lying on the ground outside my house doing an action shot. This involved a large dog running at me at full speed towards the camera. Normally during these shots when a dog gets close to you it will either swerve or leap over you. This time, however, that didn't happen and the very big fast-running dog hit the camera, which smashed into my face. My nose was the only thing broken. There was no sign of bleed on the brain and I had no headaches. However I did suffer a terrible thump which has now been diagnosed as a Traumatic Brain Injury. I had to slow down my work for a while, but it's getting better gradually." The after effects of the blow has left Craig with memory problems, and he is soon to see a Neuro Psychologist for advice and treatment. Thankfully however, his amazing camera expertise has not been damaged in any way at all. He has his usual waiting list of enthusiastic dog owners who want his wonderful portraits of their beloved animals! Craig is pictured here with his lovely dog, Jasper, who is a Bearded Collie - Border Collie Cross, now 13. He talks with great fondness of his first PADS dog Tess, also a Collie, who died four years ago. Craig and his wife Suzanne never knew exactly how old Tess was when they got her, but worked out that when she died she was anything between 18 and 22 years old! He always speaks fondly of Tess. "She was a wonderful dog. We were very lucky to have her for such a long time. We still miss her but Jasper is a great dog too!" And sure enough - he has beautiful pictures of both of them in his huge canine collection.

LITTLE GEORGE'S NEW LIFE - OUT ON THE ROAD!



THIS LOVELY, CHEERFUL LITTLE POMERANIAN DOG HAS TRAVELLED AROUND 40,000 MILES SINCE HE WAS ADOPTED BY LONG DISTANCE LORRY DRIVER ALEX LEWIS. SNOOZING ON THE CAB'S BUNK OR SITTING UP WATCHING THE WORLD GO BY, HE HAS HAD A WONDERFUL TIME. GEORGE IS 10 YEARS OLD, BUT HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A BRAND NEW LIFE WITH HIS BEST BUDDY ALEX AND THE JOURNEYS THEY MAKE TOGETHER ALL OVER THE UK.

George was found wandering as a stray in Perth. He was in poor condition, his fluffy fur dirty and matted. When he came to PADS he was a sad, neglected, unwanted wee dog. After our care, however, he regained his looks, his health and his cheerful personality! Alex says, "He is a great wee dog, full of life and intelligence. I can't imagine why anyone wouldn't want him. He is full of affection and a great companion for me." George, who is 10, got used to lorry life very quickly. He sleeps at Alex's feet in the cab bunk at night and when it's time to leave the vehicle, the wee chap puts his paws on Alex's shoulders to help him get down to ground. Since George was adopted he has travelled around with his best pal in the lorry, from Perth to all points south. "Everywhere I go he goes with me. I had decided to find a wee dog and found George on PADS website. When I visited PADS he came straight for me and we've been together ever since. We will have holidays in my motor home which I have no doubt he will love! George is happy on every journey we make together. We are great pals and I am very lucky to have found him."

For George and Alex, however, even more exciting trips could be SOON. You will notice in the picture the wee dog is sitting on a blue vehicle. That's not a car but a Harley-Davidson motor bike. It was garage-bound when this picture was taken and could not venture outside. Alex, who is a biker as well as a lorry driver, hopes to attach a custom-built unit to the back of the bike so that George can come with him on biking trips too. (By the way, Alex's t-shirt reads, IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT MOTOR BIKES!). Alex is an accomplished and enthusiastic long term biker. Just a few months before he adopted George, he completed the world – famous ROUTE 66 journey from Chicago to Los Angeles on a Harley – Davidson loaned by the US biker group, the Eagle Riders. That was 2,900 miles of hard biking! Alex says, "It was a fantastic trip. George would have loved it." The little dog is unlikely to get a chance to do the US biking challenge. However, when the Harley-Davidson is ready for the road here the adventurous pair will enjoy some great trips. He is one lucky wee dog to have this new thrilling life with his best pal!

LOOKING AT THIS PICTURE it almost seems as though George has just told Alex a big joke! At the very least the two happy faces indicate a warm friendship with ease of communication between dog and human! However, that two-way understanding is soon to be enhanced by 'soundboard mats' now on sale for dog lovers and their pets. These devices come with up to 45 'buttons', each corresponding to a dog's request or feeling. Basically, this means that if George pressed his paw on the button marked 'bike' Alex would know the little guy fancied a trip on the Harley-Davidson, or if he padded 'eat', it was time for dinner! Now, it seems, dogs can be trained to press the right button and tell their owners what they want. One bright collie has even been found to combine buttons to create short phrases. Research at the University of San Diego is gathering data from 10,000 dogs in 47 countries. One discovery that will entice dog owners is that button training decreases barking. BRING ON THE BUTTONS!

In ***"I JUST LOVE MY DEAR FRENCHIE MABEL. SHE HAS BROUGHT GREAT JOY TO OUR FAMILY!"***

MABEL THE FRENCH BULLDOG WAS DUMPED.

She was found roaming in a street in Perth, lost, alone, confused and with a serious infection in both ears. PADS' vet was certain she had very recently given birth and it was thought that she may have been in a puppy farm.

In a very short time, however, Mabel had a wonderful new home in the Perthshire countryside with Emma Kilani and her husband Mondher. Emma says, "She was very confused at the start and would not leave my side. Then, a few days later she felt safe and went into the kitchen all by herself. It was then that we knew she was on the road to recovery." She added, "Now she is in good health. She had an awful ear infection but that is gone now and she is able to enjoy her new life." She smiled and gave Mabel a cuddle, "She is a wonderful wee dog, full of life and love. She has given so much to us and now is one of the family. I am her person. She is quite easy to teach, with powerful instincts and high intelligence."

She added with a grin, "Mabel, however, still likes to bark when she is in the local coffee shop. We are working on this, for she is highly trainable, so hopefully will soon get the message to stay cool and quiet when I have my relaxing coffee with friends!"



THIS IS MABEL IN ACTION!

Contrary to the general belief that French Bulldogs are spoiled pets who like to loll around on the sofa having their tummies tickled while being fed with endless treats, Mabel loves nothing better than a 'Collie-style' session with her favourite ball in a nearby field. There is nothing lazy about Mabel. However far Emma's ball-throwing gadget sent the red and blue ball into the distance, Mabel raced forth to retrieve it, and charged back with sheer joy to have another go. This went on for some time, on a cold, damp day when most dogs would prefer a doze by the fireside! Mabel can also leap from standing to catch a treat. So much for the theory that Frenchies are feeble on exercise! Emma smiled proudly, "Amazing, isn't she?"

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE FRENCH BULLDOG

Not so long ago, wee 'Frenchie's' - as they came to be called - were second only to the Labrador in pure breed popularity ratings in the UK. They were cute, rather unique, suitable for the modern, low energy lifestyle. They didn't bark too much and didn't need a lot of exercise. Really? For some people they became a fashion accessory partly because French Bulldogs were the celebrity choice! Leonardo DiCaprio had one, so did Lady Gaga, the Beckhams and Madonna. However, the popularity of the French Bulldog was in danger. Last year the RSPCA came up with some shocking statistics. They found that while the number of Frenchies 'dumped' in England and Wales in 2020 was only 8, by 2023 – 2024 there had been 582 abandonments, an increase of 7,000 per cent in three years. In Scotland the SSPCA reported 53 arrivals at their shelters in 2023, another 68 in 2024 and 21 just six weeks into 2025. What has happened? The experts believe that a higher number of health issues in the French Bulldog - often due to poor breeding in puppy farms - plus the cost of living and huge increases in vet fees are to blame. A health and economic storm has collapsed the popularity of the breed. While high vet fees are easily covered by celebrity incomes, that is not always the case for the ordinary dog lover. Recently, PADS has cared for 5 French Bulldogs, 2 of which were found 'dumped' as strays. All, including Mabel, have been adopted and are safe and happy in new forever homes.



THUMBS UP!

...FOR
**THE WEE
 COFFEE
 SHOP**
 ... A VERY
**SPECIAL DOG-
 FRIENDLY EATERY
 IN BLAIRGOWRIE!**

JUST IMAGINE. – A warm welcome, and a magnificent breakfast platter is served to your table. You begin your morning meal of Lorne AND link sausages, black pudding, haggis, tomato, mushroom, potato scone, hash brown, beans and toast with fried, scrambled or poached eggs. Luckily, there is no need to hurry this breakfast feast, for your dog is curled up under the table, resting happily on your feet. **No worries about getting home for the dog. The dog is there with you!** At the dog friendly **WEE COFFEE SHOP** lunches are equally stunning (...try smoked venison and chicken salad with crumbled goats' cheese, raspberry and chili dressing and truffle mayo..) The little restaurant is run by chef David Cochrane and his wife Debbie, pictured here with customers Mhairi Crookston plus Labrador Eski and Chrissy McKay plus PADS Spaniel Ronan and wee Jasmine, rescued from Spain. David says, "We are both dog lovers but can't have one because of our long working hours. We decided to become dog friendly instead."

The **WEE COFFEE SHOP** is small, so dogs who arrive at the door ought to be well-behaved. David added "They usually are and we have not had any problems." David reckons that most customers who eat there make sure that their dogs settle down easily in the restaurant, and there are never any battles over who gets the black pudding! David and Debbie are a hard working couple. They set up their **WEE COFFEE SHOP** just three months before Covid struck the nation and there was the first lockdown. Life was tough, but they have worked very hard to make up for lost time in their business and the result is top notch!

Our PADS dog friendly restaurant sleuth is delighted to give Blairgowrie's **WEE COFFEE SHOP** top marks for a warm welcome, delicious food and value for money!

MUCH has changed with regard to canine customers in recent times. Now, it is much easier to find a nice restaurant which welcomes our best friends. This was not always the case. Our undercover agent remembers an incident in an outdoor café in Perth when she was refused a seat at a table because her Jack Russell was with her. The excuse was, 'We can't serve you because you have a dog.' Thankfully, these days are now over.

THE HAPPIEST STORY OF THE YEAR

SEVEN YEARS AGO, a golden lab called Daisy was stolen from an 81 year old couple in Norfolk. She was snatched from their garden and thrown in a pick up. Grief – stricken, they searched and sent out appeals without luck. They were heartbroken. However, earlier this year Philip and Rita Potter, now both 88, got a call from the RSPCA to say that Daisy had been found after a microchip scan. Overjoyed, the couple were re-united with their beloved long lost Daisy in time for their diamond wedding celebrations! This lovely story carries a strong message to all dog owners. **GET YOUR DOG CHIPPED. AND KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE.** If your dog is lost or stolen you will have a much better chance of finding it. Let the story of Daisy be a lesson to all dog owners. For information, talk to your vet, your local council or any animal charity. It's a quick, painless little injection which could re-unite you with the dog you love.



PINGU – A STAFFIE CROSS



SIENNA – A GENTLE HUSKY



ALPI – A SAD CANE CORSO



NANUK – A BOLD HUSKY



A VERY SPECIAL THANKS FROM PADS TO THE KIDS OF RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN PERTH

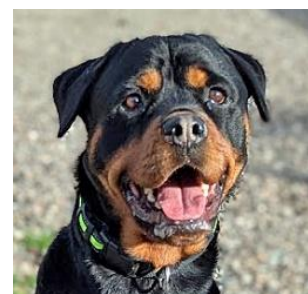
RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S YOUNG ARTISTS SENT PADS THESE DRAWINGS OF SOME DOGS IN OUR CARE. THEY HAD BEEN MADE INTO CARDS BY THE GROUP OF 10 YEAR OLDS AS GOOD WISHES TO THE DOGS. WE THINK THEY CAPTURE VERY WELL THE PERSONALITY OF EACH ONE AND SEND IN RETURN OUR THANKS TO THESE TALENTED YOUNGSTERS AT THE PERTH SCHOOL. IT'S NOT OFTEN OUR DOGS ARE THE SUBJECT OF SUCH CLEVER ARTWORK SO WE THOUGHT WE WOULD PASS ON THIS LITTLE GALLERY TO OUR READERS!



KOBE – A NICE BULLDOG CROSS



HAYLEY – A FRIENDLY GIRL



ROXY- A CHEERY ROTTWEILER



.....AND THIS IS NOT ALL THE SCHOOL HAS DONE FOR OUR DOGS...!

With the expertise of seasoned business folk, a team of 6 year old entrepreneurs sold candy canes to fellow pupils throughout the whole school, making a profit and raising an incredible £400 for PADS. Older children, aged 10, were the artists and also the ones who organized a PADS donation drive, which involved a collection of dog supplies. Teacher Nicola Dempsey said, "The children organized all this themselves, including advertising." The donation drive resulted in a huge collection of dog-friendly supplies. We should manage to squeeze in here the list, which included 24 blankets, 4 large dry dog food bags, 6 boxes of poo bags, 8 rolls of bin bags, 30 toys, dog bowls, collars, jackets, harnesses, treat launcher, 19 towels and 93 packets of dog treats. *Incredible!* Nicola Dempsey added, "The older children had been learning about politics and created their own parties to hold their very own election. Each party had to pick a charity to support and the winning charity was PADS." In all, 58 children from 3 classes were involved in this PADS charity drive. They were thanked by PADS assistant manager Joanna High, who visited the school with her dog Eddie (a Chihuahua cross) to meet the children and collect the amazing donations to help our homeless dogs. It was truly an amazing effort by all these children and one for which we are very grateful!

- finding dogs their forever homes

THIS YEAR PADS CELEBRATES ITS 35TH BIRTHDAY! FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN WE HAD REACHED OUR 30TH WE HAD PLANNED A SPECIAL EVENT NEAR PERTH BUT COVID ARRIVED AND IT WAS CANCELLED. A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN. WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY, OFTEN FULL, IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. WE HAVE REHOMED UNWANTED COVID PUPPIES, WATCHED AS THE NUMBERS OF RESCUE DOGS INCREASES AND HAVE WONDERED WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE HAD THE SUPPORT OF SO MANY KIND PEOPLE IN PERTHSHIRE DURING THIS TOUGH TIME.

AGATA BRZEK, PICTURED HERE WITH HER BELOVED BELGIAN MALINOIS ARCO AND HER NEW COLLIE PUP MERRICK, HAS WORKED WITH PADS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS. SHE HAS HER OWN DOGS TO CARE FOR AS WELL AS THOSE COMING TO THE CHARITY'S KENNELS.



SHE SAYS, "THEY ARE LIKE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS, WONDERFUL COMPANIONS TO COME HOME TO AFTER A DAY'S WORK!"

PADS 'SCRUFTS' DOG SHOW

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST – AT ROLLO PARK, DUNNING
REGISTRATION OPENS AT 11 AM - JUDGING STARTS 1.0 PM
ALL WELCOME – CROSS BREEDS, PEDIGREE, MIXED BREEDS AND HUMANS! COMPETITIONS FOR ALL DOGS!
TREATS, EATS, STALLS AND FUN FOR ALL!
FREE PARKING, FREE ENTRY AND A WHOPPING GREAT MARQUEE IN CASE IT RAINS!

A VERY HAPPY DAY YOU'LL REMEMBER!
PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DOG DIARY – RIGHT NOW!

VISITS TO PADS (PERTHSHIRE ABANDONED DOGS SOCIETY) ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. SEE OUR WEBSITE AT padsdogrescue.com TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHARITY, HOW TO GET ON OUR ADOPTION LIST AND HOW TO DONATE TO HELP OUR DOGS. 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, LEAVE A MESSAGE AND WE SHALL CALL YOU BACK. WRITE TO US AT PADS KENNELS, FORTEVIOT, PERTH PH2 9BS.
PADS IS REGISTERED CHARITY SC011033