

PADS NEWS

WINTER 25-26



...finding dogs their forever homes

Picture by Craig Cantwell

PADS SCRUFFS DOG SHOW!

OUR ANNUAL SUPER - POPULAR DOG SHOW TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST 2025. AS USUAL IT WAS A DAY TO REMEMBER! HERE ARE A FEW HAPPY, SUNNY SNAPS TO CHEER YOU UP ON A COLD WINTER'S NIGHT.

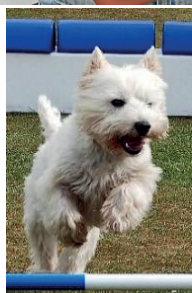


ON THE LEFT- Cooper is a happy 6 year old mixed breed who loves people, other dogs, cuddles, biscuits and life in general. Ron and Morag Whytock from Perth agree, "He is a real joy. Loves everyone. We reckon he will have met all the dogs and their owners here before the show ends."

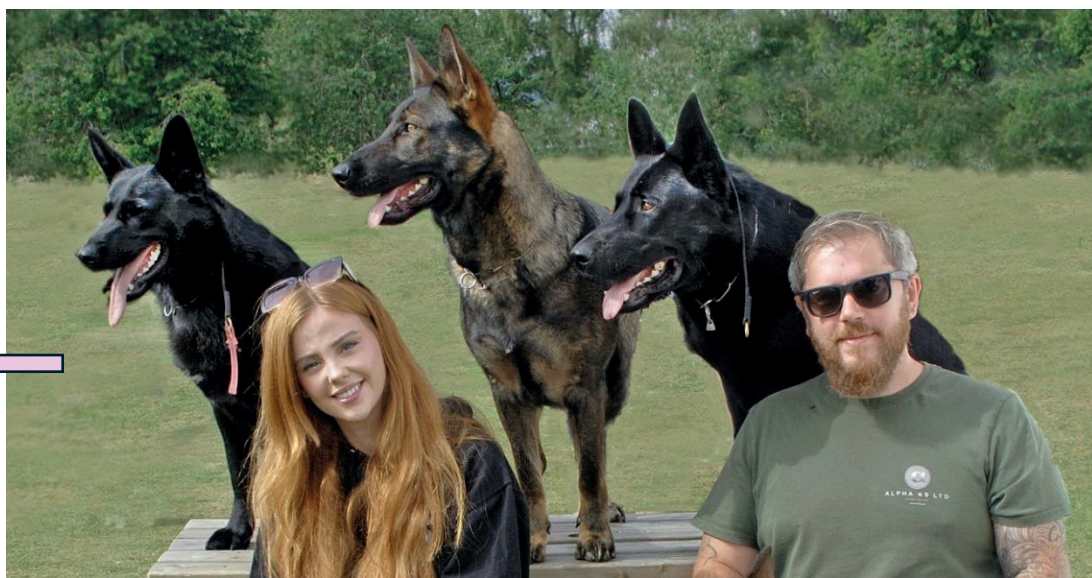
BELOW - Alan Carr from Dundee came along with 18 month old brother and sister Great Danes Ragnar and Minnie. They were having a wonderful time socialising but had to leave a bit early to get back home. Alan explained, "We also have two Staffies at home who will be waiting for their supper soon!"



Meet 12 year old Sofia Allan and her Dachshund Frankie, who is five. We noticed at our show the abundance of Dachshunds. No wonder. This charming, loyal and affectionate little dog is now the 3rd most popular breed in Scotland after the Golden Retriever and the German Shepherd.



'Hey guys - check out that crazy Westie doing a leap at agility! Thinks he's a lurcher. Must be bonkers!'



These beautiful German Shepherds (L to R - Lexi, Freyja and Ghost) are the real deal. They are reared by Jamie Bussey and Romy Masterson to be personal protection dogs for families. Their forebears were GSD's from 150 years ago who were prized for their health and temperament. They are perfect family dogs but are trained how to protect if that family is threatened.

MEET MARY, THE ARTIST WITH A HEART OF GOLD!



This is Oscar, a cheeky little wire-haired Dachshund.



Skye's Dad was a GSD X Wolf and Mum an Alaskan Malamute. Wow, those eyes!



Frisky was a mixture of everything, with a wonderful happy, affectionate nature.

Mary McGregor's dog portraits are truly beautiful. How does she capture the personality of a dog she draws?

"It's all to do with the look in their eyes, the angle of the ears and the way they hold themselves. I photograph each one and that gives me time to study the animal for the portrait." Her favourite? That little one called Frisky. He didn't look much but he had the loveliest personality of any dog I have ever known!"



Mary's husband Andy, a former merchant seaman, puts it like this, *"When I came back home from each trip I never had a clue how many dogs Mary would have in the house!"*

That was because the artist supported PADS even before the charity's kennels were built 35 years ago, and in the early years fostered around 100 dogs. Inevitably some would be no doubt waiting behind the front door for Andy when he arrived at his Blairgowrie home! In 1991 Mary set up shop as an animal artist and has painted around 120 dogs since then. Pictured here with her beloved little PADS Jack Russell Dotty, she said, *"Yes, dogs have been a huge part of my life and I am lucky to have been able to produce portraits of them over all these years."* In 20 per cent of cases a portrait is commissioned after a dog's death to serve as a precious memory. Recently, Mary completed a coloured pencil drawing of a lovely Sheltie who was killed by two other dogs. *"It was a commission I was very sad to do. I sincerely hope it gave some kind of comfort to the dog's heartbroken owners."*

Although 75 per cent of Mary's art works have been dogs, she can claim credit for many other animal masterpieces. She has drawn or painted horses, cats, sheep, cows and a white rat perched on a child's shoulder. There have also been landscapes, townscapes AND even some humans of all ages. Throughout the years Mary has been a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of PADS and we are hugely grateful to her for that.

In the last couple of years she has taken up sculpture to produce already a magnificent tiger and a black and white pig. It's a whole new medium for her but we are sure she will show in her sculpture the same unique talent that has graced her portraits. To find out more, check out Mary McGregor on Facebook or visit animalportraits-scotland.com



A recent drawing – Mavis, a young Border Collie with a gentle, friendly smile.



AT LAST! A HOME FOR HAYLEY

She was with PADS for just on 3 years. That's 1,095 days. She loved life with us but she needed a real home. Time went by but she remained the dog nobody chose. Then a miracle happened.....

Rhonda Thomson, pictured above with Hayley and her husband Dave, put it in a few short words, *"I rescued Hayley and she saved me!"* Some months before, Rhonda and Dave had lost two beloved German Shepherds. Following that Rhonda was diagnosed with a heart problem which left her mentally 'very down'. She was desperate to find the right dog to give her the 'lift' she needed and the positive feeling she craved. *"I was off work and I cried a lot. Dave and I looked at PADS list online and there she was! Hayley! – Now she knows when I am not feeling well and gives me great comfort. We were made for each other!"* At the time of writing Rhonda and Dave have had Hayley (now 7) for eight months and the dog that no-one wanted has never looked back. She has a lovely home, a garden to sniff around in and humans who adore her. Rhonda added, *"She is the wonderful dog who saved my health. We were so lucky to find her!"*

Despite the fact that Hayley is a friendly, happy dog she was always passed by during her 3 years with PADS. If someone did show an interest in her they were put off by the fact that she had a problem that we at PADS – try as we might – were never able to solve. When Hayley was out walking and saw another dog on a lead she became frantic and might well have attacked that dog. Staff at PADS spent many hours trying to solve this problem and give her a chance of a new life, but Hayley remained the same, stubborn as ever. In the end it was a very clever young dog trainer who now works with PADS that had the key to Hayley's future.

According to our manager Joanna High, Elaine Macfarlane 'transformed' Hayley and solved the problem of her tendency to over-react to fellow canine walkers. Elaine, pictured here with her Retriever Cross Oran explained, *"Why did Hayley do this? It was most likely territorial. When she saw the 'trigger' of another dog, we 'marked' that with a 'Yes!' and gave her a treat. This created the idea of positive things happening around other dogs. Then, as she got better in this situation, we waited for her to turn to look at us before 'marking' and rewarding. This meant that she responded to the 'trigger' of other dogs by looking to her handler. She had been barking because she didn't know how to handle herself. She was looking for answers. I gave her a 'pattern' which for her built trust in her owner to make any decision instead."*



THREE SPECIAL DOGS IN THEIR FOREVER HOMES



THIS IS ALBI, A VERY SPECIAL DOG

He is probably the most unusual crossbreed PADS has ever rehomed. Albi's mum was a St Bernard and his dad a Standard Poodle. His proud adopter Maggie Anderson from Dumfries says, "I think the size bit is St Bernard and the Poodle bit is his coat." Personality-wise, he has the gentle, warm, friendly character of the St Bernard and the intelligence of the Poodle. This combination, says Maggie, is perfect for him to become a therapy dog, and when he is a little older Albi will be trained for that. He comes from a litter of 15 puppies. (Can you believe it..?) On social media Maggie found a 'St. Berdoodle' (or Bernadoodle...?) UK group and managed to track down one of Albi's brothers. She added, "Albi is a gentle giant. He loves people and cuddles and is friends with everyone. He is very intelligent. He watches me do things and copies me. He sees me opening a cupboard and next thing I know he has done it himself. He will train well as a therapy dog and with his love and intelligence will go on to help lots of people who need a kindly friend."

THIS IS BETTY, A RARE PADS DOG

Betty the Chinese Chow Chow is only the second one rehomed by PADS in 35 years. She is a friendly dog who loves other dogs and people, and therefore is not typical of her breed. The Chow Chow is often described as 'reserved, independent and aloof towards strangers!' Stirling couple Louise Hammell and her husband Graham disagree, "She is a big, friendly, cuddly darling. More sociable than we are!" Betty has no problems with her shaggy coat. If there is a stray clump the groomer forgot, yoga teacher Louise can fix it. She is a hairdresser by trade!



THIS IS MAISIE, A SENIOR WITH A NEW CAREER

Maisie, aged 13, came to PADS after her owner died. Like many older dogs her chances of finding a forever home were slim. Then along came Dorothy Jones, a good lady from Crieff, to give her a wonderful home. Maisie, however, was not to be content with a bed by the stove and a walk around the garden each day. The wee Westie, says Dorothy, "Loves life, enjoys her walks and paddling in the River Earn." And she is with Dorothy on her volunteer days at the local Crieff and Strathearn Museum to help welcome visitors. She does such a good job Maisie is now Mascot for the museum and well loved by all who meet her. Dorothy says, "Just goes to show, you should never give up on older dogs."

And they don't need training!"





PADS' eatery scouts visited dog friendly 'Rascals', the vegan café in George Street, Perth. We found amazing food at good prices and a huge warm welcome for both dogs and their humans. This lovely café was created by Dodie Piddock and her husband Ron Tasker, pictured here with their GSD Rascal after whom the restaurant is named. The tables in Rascals are widely spaced. Dodie smiled, 'Just as well! We recently had 3 St. Bernards and a Pyrenean Mountain Dog in here all at once!

Those of you who have never tasted vegan food should put aside images of heaps of raw carrots and cold butter beans! Rascals has a tempting breakfast menu and cakes, scones and pastries available all day. The latter is accompanied by excellent coffee or a choice of speciality teas. Home made soups (try the delicious French Onion) are brilliant. There's a big choice of sandwiches, including a Coronation Chick vegan alternative with crispy fried onion, or a hot panini with grilled pepper, courgette and aubergine. The Rascals burger (vegan, of course) is served with tomato, gherkin, lettuce, burger sauce and fries. Beat that! There is even a child menu with fishless fingers and chips! The food is lovely.

The other wonderful aspect of Rascals is its welcome. It is rather unique. It is the kind of place a lone diner with or without dog can settle down happily at a table feeling completely at home. And families can enjoy the space around them. The atmosphere is full of warmth and friendliness and relaxing in every way.

Rascals was opened by Dodie and her husband 3 years ago as a project for a social enterprise charity. This is the charity's trading arm and is run just like a normal business. The idea is to help integrate the socially isolated. This includes prisoners ready and anxious to find a new pathway in the world outside or troubled teenagers needing a stable work environment. Dodie, a former teacher, remembers one young worker who was referred to her by youth services. "She was classed as impossible and excluded from every school. Then, a while later after working in Rascals she started her studies at Dundee University.

While youngsters like her work here they learn what society expects of them." - Food, service and commitment to helping the helpless? Rascals is great in every way!



FREDDIE SPEAKS

"Yes, I'm Freddie, an adorable 18 month old Welsh Terrier. I know that things have changed a lot lately to let dogs in to more pubs, cafes, restaurants, shops and hotels. I had a chat recently in a dream with an old pal called Ben, a Wire Haired Fox Terrier, about this. I couldn't believe Ben when he told me he had grown up in a time when dogs were never allowed in any of these places unless you were an Assistance dog. The reason given was that where food was served it had to be clean and dogs were dirty. I was stunned. I was very clean and took great pride in licking myself, even those parts which were hard to reach. I told Ben that recently I had been to this great wee restaurant where I had my photo taken and was given water to drink, a huge strawberry and a puppuccino! I also chatted to Ben about my trips to the farm café where wonderful smells of bread and cake taunted my wee black snout and I got titbits. Now I can saunter into most eating places and get offered a wee plate of biscuits just for myself. Nowadays we dogs don't appreciate how lucky we are. Poor old Ben! The last generation of canines really had it tough!"

IN FOUR DECADES (plus a bit more) dog lovers Anne and John Tracey have opened their door to SIX PADS dogs. Anne says, "These rescue dogs have all been a joy. Every single one settled in so well. One of them called Tim, a Lurcher X Deerhound, came into the house and stretched out on the hearth rug as if to say, 'At last I have a good home'. I shall never forget that."



THE JOY all these dogs have brought to this couple cannot be measured. But two of them gave much more than just happiness, loyalty and love. THEY GAVE JOHN HIS LIFE.

On a sunny Sunday morning 16 years ago John left his Perth home with his 2 PADS dogs, Belle and Ollie, both Staffie X Labs. They headed for their usual walk near the golf course and the North Inch. Suddenly John collapsed, hit his head and lay helpless on the ground, letting go of both dog leads. There was no-one nearby to help. Belle vanished, but Ollie stayed with him, trying to push him up on his feet. With huge effort he got up and the dog nudged him along the pathway to home, 700 metres away. The painful journey took a full ten minutes. He remembers, *"I could hardly walk but Ollie kept shoving at my leg to keep me going."* The pair finally made it home to find Belle, who had been barking furiously on the driveway to alert the nearest humans. An ambulance was called and doctors at Perth Royal Infirmary diagnosed a heart attack due to a blocked artery. John says, *"I shall remember that day for the rest of my life. If I had lain there I could have died, for there was no-one to help me. I owe my life to these two PADS dogs."*

It was an extraordinary event. The dogs sensed the emergency and acted accordingly. The doctors told John they had never known of anyone walking so far while having a heart attack. Our thanks to John and Anne, and their daughter Lynne, for giving a wonderful home to so many PADS dogs. And we are thrilled that two of them saved John's life. They were two incredible, loyal and amazing dogs who will be long remembered.

The Traceys are pictured with Stanley, a 5 year old Staffie rescue dog who came from Dogs' Trust. We decided that such a beautiful, loyal and affectionate dog like Stanley deserved the title of Honorary PADS Dog. We are sure Dogs' Trust won't mind!

DOG ISSUES DOG ISSUESDOG ISSUES

The Dog Theft Bill Scotland, which would create a specific offence and a possible penalty of 5 years in jail could see a final vote before Christmas. The Bill, brought by Tory MSP Maurice Golden has already been supported by the Parliament. Mr. Golden said, "Losing a dog is traumatic whatever the circumstances. Losing a dog as a result of theft compounds that trauma."

Having gained full support in the first vote in early October, the Bill has 2 more hurdles to leap before it becomes law. However, a good start would suggest that Scotland may soon have more protection for its dogs.

The CMA (Competition and Markets Authority) has made public its first report on the state of the UK's veterinary sector. The verdict is *'not fit for purpose.'*

The first proposal is to cap the cost of a vet's prescription for buying medications online at often half the price charged by the vet. There are also proposals for more transparency in treatment costs. Even more new rules will come in the spring when the CMA presents its full report. *Latest figures show that from 2016 to 2023 vet fees in the UK increased by a staggering 63%. Keep up the good work, CMA!*



WOOF! Looks like our dogs are in for some tummy fun in the winter months! PADS thanks POSSIBLE Estate Agency for this stunning selection of food, treats and toys for the DOGS to enjoy over winter. The goodies were delivered to our manager Joanna High by (L-R) Gary Robertson, Niamh Malcolm and Laura Aitken. Thanks also to Paula Shephard and Eleze Davidson of PREMIER Properties who donated £100, and to the STRATHEARN VINTAGE PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION for £300. And huge thanks to Perth pet store JOLLYES for an amazing 2,000 cans of dog food. Good luck from us to Jollyes who have moved into a new store in St Catherine's Retail Park, Perth. **WOOF, WOOF!**

PADS 'SCRUFTS' DOG SHOW

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST, 2026 - AT ROLLO PARK, DUNNING

REGISTRATION 11 AM - JUDGING STARTS 1.0 PM

ALL WELCOME - CROSS BREEDS, PEDIGREE, MIXED BREEDS AND HUMANS.

CLASSES FOR ALL DOGS. TREATS, EATS, STALLS!

FREE PARKING, FREE ENTRY AND A HUGE MARQUEE IN CASE IT RAINS

THIS WILL BE A HAPPY DAY YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER!

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DOG DIARY - RIGHT NOW!



OUR NEXT PADS COFFEE MORNING WILL BE ON SATURDAY 9 MAY, 2026 FROM 10AM TILL 1PM. IT WILL BE IN THE USUAL VENUE IN SCONE OLD PARISH CHURCH IN BURNSIDE, SCONE. WE HOPE FOR BETTER WEATHER THAN WE'VE HAD FOR OUR RECENT NOVEMBER COFFEE EVENTS! ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

VISITS TO PADS (PERTSHIRE 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 AT info@padsdogrescue.com OR 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