

PADS NEWS

SUMMER 2026



...finding dogs their forever homes

Picture by Craig Cantwell



THIS LOVELY DOG was found alone, wandering in a Perth car park. Her out of date chip told PADS that her name was FERN and she was 10. Look closely and you will see scars on her face. She has more on her body. When she arrived at the kennels she was seen to have an untreated broken toe and, as PADS staff found later, a number of fractured teeth. She now has a wonderful forever home with Elaine Bruce and her daughter Alana in Dundee. Elaine, a hospital theatre support worker, says, *"She is a joy to have. She has a lovely nature and is very happy here with us."* She has canine company in Rhona, another PADS lurcher adopted by Elaine last year. Add to that a very large garden and lots of love from Elaine, who worked also for 12 years as a PDSA vet care assistant. All is well. **BUT FERN HAD A ROCKY ROAD TO TREAD ON THE WAY TO HER NEW HOME!** THIS IS HER STORY

PADS manager Joanna High says, *"FERN was a delight from the moment we all first met her."* Everyone at the kennels was enchanted by this dog who had been through so much yet stayed so friendly and happy. After 2 weeks at PADS FERN developed kennel cough and was isolated from all other dogs. When she recovered it was time to be spayed and while under anaesthetic for that operation her old teeth would be cleaned and polished. FERN was duly booked in at the vet's. When she got to the operating table she was found to have a mammary tumor! The vet nurses carried on with the teeth job and found a couple of historic fractures that would need extracting. This would have to be done at a later date because FERN had been under the anaesthetic too long and it was time to waken her!

Stunned by the news of the tumor, PADS came to collect her. As she walked through the vet practice FERN whacked her tail on the door frame and split the end of it! Not the door, the tail! The latter was dressed and she returned to the kennels. Three weeks later came good news. *The tumor was benign!* Everyone sighed with relief! Now it was time to extract the broken teeth! Back to the vet. The dentistry went just fine but as FERN woke up she managed to chew her tongue. Back she went for another op to have it stitched together! By now staff had nicknamed her 'CALAMITY FERN' (after the 1953 movie 'Calamity Jane', about a fearless female sharp shooter character in the American Wild West).

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Yes, FERN'S vet bills put a dent in PADS' accounts for that month! Luckily however, our charity is fortunate to have loyal support from the people of Perthshire and beyond to help us cope with big bills! In the last 7 years, vet costs for pet owners and animal charities have increased by 63 per cent. This is very much due to the fact that 60 per cent of vet practices in the UK are now owned by LVG's (Large Vet Groups). In 2013 it was only 10 per cent. This is the single most important issue facing the pet owner in decades and beyond. Indeed one national newspaper has described it as *'Fido verses Goliath'* and warned against the dangers to animal welfare it brings. In the background to all this has been the CMA (Competition and Markets Authority), whose 3- year investigation of the vet industry was published in March. It got little publicity, for at the same time the nation was absorbed in the events of the Middle East War and the Peter Mandelson scandal. The CMA has discovered, among many other faults, barriers to information needed by pet owners and a regulation system totally outdated and unfit for purpose. The Authority has plans to push government for a new Veterinary Surgeons Act' and to remove barriers to competition and cap some prices. It is hoped that pet owners may start to feel some improvement by the end of this year. Paws crossed!

THREE BEAUTIFUL PADS DOGS WHO HAVE FOUND THEIR FOREVER HOMES



A GENTLE LITTLE STROKE ON HER HEAD FROM A STRANGER MEANT SO MUCH.....

CALLIE is a German Shepherd cross Malamut aged 5, who was adopted 6 months ago on New Year's Day by Emma Davidson and her partner Alan Robertson near Perth. She is their third PADS dog. Callie is very nervous. Emma describes her as being *'terrified of life...and cannot bear strangers.'* However, as the months have gone by the love and care from Emma and Alan have gradually begun to ease Callie's fear and distrust of the world around her. The PADS photographer asked the couple if it was OK to give Callie a wee bit of biscuit. "Go ahead, please," said Emma with a smile. Callie crunched her snack. Another treat followed and the stranger with the camera leaned closer and gave a quiet and motionless Callie a gentle stroke on her lovely white head. Emma was amazed. She gasped, *"This is the first time that Callie has allowed any stranger to pat her. This is wonderful."* Many of the dogs who come to PADS are traumatised and fearful of what life holds for them, but a loving home can bring about a magical transformation! The care and patience of these two amazing adopters will continue to help this lovely dog and in time her fear of the world will fade. A pat from a stranger will be even more welcome!



ROSIE came to the Rollo family in Perthshire at the end of March. She joined Kara, husband Gary, son Jake (7) and another Dalmatian called Arthur (10). Kara says, *"It was pretty tough at first, for she is very energetic, but she's settled down now and all is well! We just love her."* Despite all our efforts we could not get a good picture of Rosie's eyes, which are bright blue. This makes her look gorgeous, but there is a dark side. Blue eyes in the breed can mean poor hearing. Kara says, *"Already we have noticed this. I am sure we shall cope!"*



ON THE LEFT IS ROSIE THE DALMATIAN WITH KARA ROLLO. ON THE RIGHT IS LUDO WITH COLIN MCGREGOR AND HIS DAUGHTER SOPHIA

LUDO is a three in one dog, a mix of German Shepherd, Lab and Spanish Mastiff. The energetic 3 year old learns fast and doubles the distance of his adopter's hill walks. Colin says, *"He's got the brains of the GSD, the good nature of the Lab and when he's playing at being dumb he is the Mastiff! He is a great companion who has brought much joy into my life. He did need training but I got a lot of advice from PADS on this. The charity has been fantastic and a huge help."* Ludo is a BIG guy, weighing in at 33 kilos. He has good recall, is OK for separation, walks off lead and loves hill walking, swimming and snoring on the sofa after dinner. *The perfect Perthshire pooch!*

▪ **..THANKS....THANKS....THANKS....THANKS....THANKS....THANKS..**

**ARRAN MURRAY – SAHARA
DESERT HIKE – 64 MILES-
£1778.75**



It was Arran Murray's love for the family's PADS dog Jade that inspired him to take on a desert walk in Morocco to raise money for the charity. The 27 year old Perth lad joined 15 others for an 8 hour per day, 5-day walk over sand dunes in the desert wilderness. He says, "We had to get used to a different way of walking in soft sand. It was tough going but a great experience." Arran, a ground worker for Scottish Water, added, "We rested in our camps each night, but in the morning we had to check our boots for spiders or scorpions! It was worth it to help abandoned dogs like Jade, who has been with us now for ten great years!"

**EMMA MITCHELL – ROME
MARATHON – 26.2 MILES-
£1,623.75**



PADS dog walker Emma Mitchell (21), from Glenfarg, normally sticks to HALF marathons. However, for PADS she signed up for a BIG one – the full marathon in Rome. The family flew out with her and, watched by mum, dad and sister, Emma ran the historic streets and made it to the finishing line in the Colosseum. She says, "I wanted to help PADS. The charity does amazing work to get dogs ready for rehoming. PADS is a wonderful charity." She added, cuddling her beloved Labrador Enzel, "It was tough doing the run but worth every step. I must admit I was very stiff at the end, but boy, did I enjoy every bite of that pizza that was waiting for me...!"



**AND (L-R) MURIEL NICOL, GEMMA KNOX, PEPPER HER PADS DOG AND JOANNE CLARK-
GLASGOW KILT WALK - 23 MILES - £1,579.63.**

This happy trio from Arbroath completed Scotland's biggest ever Kilt Walk, with 14,000 people covering 23 miles, and they did it for PADS. Muriel and Gemma, who work in the digital department at Dundee and Angus College, agreed, "Eight hours walking, tight muscles and blisters on the feet! But a wonderful day!" Joanne, who is a primary school teacher, added "It was great! People came out of their houses to cheer us on and there were bands and even a choir! And we had 6 pit stops!" The girls have done 3 other Kilt Walks in the last 4 years for different charities, but this one was for PADS. They added, "A fantastic charity."

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 TO HELP OUR DOGS. YOU CAN E MAIL US AT info@padsdogrescue.com OR CALL US AT 01764 684491. IF WE ARE BUSY WITH THE DOGS AND DON'T ANSWER LEAVE A MESSAGE AND WE SHALL CALL BACK. WRITE TO US AT PADS KENNELS, FORTEVIOT, PERTH PH2 9BS. PADS IS REGISTERED CHARITY SC011033