

# Welcome

Welcome to our winter 2020 newsletter, during what is undeniably one of the the strangest and most difficult times that I can recall. I genuinely hope you're all doing okay. It has been very encouraging to see the great support from so many of you. I know my dogs Suki and Ella



have helped me and given me focus, especially during these uncertain times and I am sure your pets have given you comfort too.

You have given us hope when we needed it the most. Given the opportunity, I would like to thank everyone in person who donated towards the Hope appeal. Your donations meant that we raised a record breaking appeal amount, which truly helps the animals in our care who cannot ask for help themselves. Thank you.

We are so pleased that our charity shops have been able to reopen their doors again and thank you to those who have donated, bought items such as Christmas cards and, of course, to those that have given up their time to help us reopen.

We have had some great success stories, Neville, the rescue pig, finally found his forever home in June but not before becoming a national newspaper star first! Cinderella the Greyhound, who featured in our summer newsletter also found her forever home - thank you to everyone who read and shared her story, it really did help. In this issue we bring you many more wonderful updates, which I do hope you enjoy reading. From the fantastic update on Jeff the Police dog to the perfect Christmas gift for loved ones, as well as the ever favourite forever home stories!

As we turn our focus onto the winter months and 2021 we know our supporters, like us, want to see that the animals in our care have the best possible chance. If you can make a donation towards our Second Chance Appeal it would really make, not only our Christmas but our whole year. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all.

**Geoff Wright** Chief Executive

Geoff Wright



### Can you give Lacey a loving home?

Lacey is a gorgeous 20 year old Arab who is currently at our Church Knowle Centre. She loves being pampered as well as finding the biggest pile of hay to have a snooze in! She does get worried when left on her own, so will need a companion.

## Would you like the chance to win £600?

We are so excited to be able to bring back our Grand Draw tickets with bigger prizes! Return your tickets by the 8th January to be in with a chance of winning.

# Stay in touch

We love to hear from you and your pets. Here's how:

#### Write to:

Jazmin House Fundraising and Marketing Manager Margaret Green Animal Rescue,

Church Knowle.

Wareham,

Dorset, BH20 5NQ

- t: 01929 480474
- e: comms@mgar.org.uk



Instagram @mganimalrescue



Twitter @MGAnimalRescue



Facebook.com/ margaretgreenanimalrescue



Margaret Green Animal Rescue

### For farm animals and cats in Dorset contact:

Church Knowle Rehoming and Visitor Centre,

Church Knowle. Wareham.

Dorset, BH20 5NO

- t: 01929 480474
- e: churchknowle@mgar.org.uk

### For dogs in Dorset contact:

Lincoln Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre,

Bere Road.

Winterborne Kingston, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 9BP

- t: 01929 471340
- e: lincolnfarm@mgar.org.uk

### For cats and dogs in Devon contact:

Wingletang Rescue and Rehoming Centre,

Heathfield.

Tavistock,

Devon. PL19 0LF

t: 01822 810215

e: wingletang@mgar.org.uk

Patron: Edward Fox OBE

Thanks to Kim Lillington for additional photography. At the time of going to press all information is correct.















### Richard to the rescue!

Richard Higham has been supporting the charity for over 5 years, raising over £1,000 for our rescue animals. He has gone above and beyond for many local people. Richard is a metal detectorist who specialises in finding jewellery; he recently found a bride's wedding ring and engagement ring at Canford Cliffs beach! The news hit the national press, which was so wonderful to see. Richard really deserves recognition as he is so helpful and an all-round lovely chap.



### Crafty creations

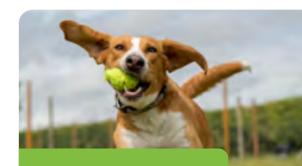
Huge thanks to Mrs Sheila Ratty and Vivienne Worrall who regularly make knitted items for our rescue cats and dogs, your kindness is very much appreciated. If you are looking for a craft project we currently need knitted cat nip snakes! They are a great toy for our cats and they are also very popular, so much so that we sell them to raise money for the rescue cats in our care.

### Terrific Tilly!

Tilly explained that she wanted to "give something positive back whilst in a negative situation" and we are so grateful for her support.

She decided to raise money for the rescue animals by riding her bike for an hour a day on a stationary stand. After the news of the schools shutting, Tilly was concerned that she wouldn't be able to ride her bike as much and so decided to set herself this challenge! She raised an amazing £400! Tilly, you are such an inspiration to everyone.

Mank you



# Looking ahead to holidays...

Our Dorset and Devon centres offer boarding for cats and dogs, with complete peace of mind as all our staff are experienced in high levels of animal welfare. Board your pet with us and help save another!

Dorset / Cats: call Church Knowle on 01929 480474 Dorset / Dogs: call Lincoln Farm on 01929 471340 Devon / Cats & Dogs: call Wingletang on 01822 810215

If any of the fantastic fundraisers on this page have inspired you to start your own fundraiser please get in touch: comms@mgar.org.uk we would love to help kick start your idea!



# **Sponsored Walk**

It is quite something to say that our first event of 2020 was hosted in September! Traditionally the Tri-4 Rescue is our event at that time of year, however, to ensure social distancing was adhered to we took the decision to hold a sponsored walk event, with the option of supporters undertaking their own Tri-4 Rescue too.

We had over 60 supporters joining us who were asked to set off shortly after their arrival so that we could keep distancing in place. The event has raised over £4.000 for the animals in our care and we feel so humbled that we have so many wonderful people supporting the centre.

Huge thanks to David and Angela Sykes who created their own triathlon event, taking 40,700 paces and ascending 3,000 feet. Further thanks to Dillon's owner who made a special trip from Dorset so that he could meet up with his sibling Denzil, who many of you may recognise after we shared their story online last year.







# Sid finally found some luck

Sid the Jack Russell cross Yorkie came into rescue as a stray from the Council during December. His right foreleg was deformed, so, his natural gait caused him to walk with his front leg stuck out and he was unable to put it to the ground. We duly had it x-rayed and our Vets, Westmoor Veterinary Hospital, informed us that it was a very old fracture of the elbow but sent the x-rays to an orthopaedic vet for a second opinion.

They felt that it could not be repaired surgically, due to it being such an old

injury and the only option was amputation. Sid not only had to undergo this surgery to have a front leg amputated but because of dental disease had to have 12 teeth removed too. Sid really did take all of this in his 'stride' and seemed so much happier, because he was no longer in pain.

When Sid was ready for rehoming, we then went into lockdown, poor Sid really didn't have much luck. Sid enjoyed mixing with his four and two legged friends on a daily basis during this time.

Sid finally found his forever home in June and has settled in extremely well by landing on all 3 paws! His owners say that he likes to spend his time on the beach making new friends.



Second Chance
You can help give a rescue dog a second chance by making a donati this Christmas towards our Appeal. See enclosed letter for details. You can help give a rescue dog a second chance by making a donation





# Jeff joins the Force

In the last edition we shared Jeff's update that he would be training with Dorset Police. Jeff has done extremely well with his training and is now a fully-fledged Police dog!

Jeff was in rescue at Wingletang and needed a home where he could focus his boundless energy and working drive. We contacted the Devon & Cornwall Police Dog Section who came and assessed Jeff and felt he had potential for a future career in the Police.

Fast forward six months, to Jeff's 'graduation' from Police Dog training when he was presented with his official Police dog collar.

All of our centre managers: Niki Ging. Kate Wickins. Helen Ellsmore, as well as Trustee Matt Devereux and the Dorset Police attended the presentation.

Inspector Neil Leat, Head of the Alliance Dog Section, said: "It's been great to work with MGAR to give Jeff a new start in life. For our specialist search dogs, we're keen to work with animal rescue charities to offer dogs looking for a forever home a new active role within the police service.

Having received his pawfect official police collar. Jeff is about to embark on a pawsome career with Dorset Police sniffing out the evidence!" Well done Jeff!







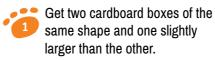
We have the ideal present for an animal lover - our Centre Sponsor package.

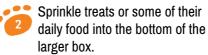
You will be able to gift a certificate and your giftee will be able to choose the wording they would like to appear on the plaque at the centre. They will also receive twice yearly updates about how their sponsorship is helping the dogs, which are packed full of dog updates and positive news. It is really easy to purchase by either heading to our website and downloading the form or picking up a leaflet from one of our Charity Shops or Centres. If you would prefer us to send you a form please contact: comms@mgar.org.uk and we will happily send you one.

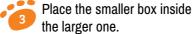
(Please be advised that in order to have your sponsor gift ready for Christmas we would need your form back by December 1st)



## Cardboard box game







Your dog should have lots of fun trying to get to the treats in the middle. encourage your dog and use lots of positive words as they search for the treats. You may end up with bits of cardboard everywhere but your dog will have enjoyed it immensely, so

### Why should I provide enrichment for my dog?

It is important for your dog's physical and psychological health, allowing them to display natural behaviours and use their instincts, making for a settled happy dog.



# Crazy for **Soft Toys**

We have many sighthounds come into rescue who love soft toys and we are in need of more!

We cannot take any children's soft toys as these can be unsafe for dogs. You can order soft toys from our Amazon wish list or drop some off to the centre (please call ahead before your

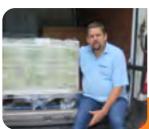
visit). It really is like Christmas morning every time a rescue



dog receives a new toy.

The team at Healthy Pets, goody bags to visitors and their difference to the lives of rescue animals and we are grateful for



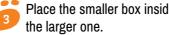




Blandford, have shown such kindness towards the rescue dogs in our care. Donating thousands of pounds worth of dog food to keep all the dogs full and happy! Lloyd and his team have also attended our events (pre-Covid) giving out pups. They have made a big their continued support.







worth the mess!



found her forever

home alongside

called Sammy!

another MGAR dog

Well done Daisy - we

are thrilled for you! You

can read Daisy's story

in full on the news

page of our website.



time to really be able to focus on

individual dogs' needs and further

their training. They spent a huge

amount of time with Kovi, which

After the restrictions were lifted,

Kovi, through no fault of his own,

was overlooked for several weeks

Lurchers travelled over 300 miles to

before a family with two other

gain confidence.

meet him.

benefitted him well and helped him



What do I need to pay for?

- The purchase price/rehoming fee
- · Livery (if you don't own your own land and stables and need somewhere to keep your pony)
- · Insurance for vet bills and public liability
- Vet fees (not everything is covered by insurance)
- Shoeing
- Feeding, bedding, tuition, rugs
- · Tack (saddle and bridle)
- · Yard and riding equipment.

All this costs thousands of pounds each year and is a big commitment.

Ouite often behavioural issues can cause a new owner to become nervous of their new pony, so they do less with it and as the pony does less the behavioural problem worsens.

What happens if my situation changes and I can no longer keep my pony?

This is a very difficult situation to be in, if your pony is fit, healthy, well behaved and able to be ridden you should be able to find another home. If your pony is older, has health or behavioural issues this can be a serious problem. There are huge numbers of unwanted ponies and horses looking for new homes all the time, the majority have some health or behavioural issues, there are so many ponies available that ones with even minor issues are often overlooked.

Buying a pony is easy, finding a new home for it if things don't work out is not.

### New arrivals

**During June we welcomed three Anglo Nubian Goats called** Pepper, Splash and Squeak to the centre.

We discovered they were escape artists (mainly because they have supermodel legs!) but they have now settled in and have been enjoying time with the staff and volunteers.



How can you help? Educate! Talk to anyone who will listen about the problem of unwanted equines. Make people aware that giving a pony up is much more difficult than acquiring one and, of course, contact us if you have any horse related questions.

Thinking of getting a horse or pony?

Be prepared. Horses and ponies take a lot of looking after so making sure you have the knowledge to provide appropriate care is vital. If you are unsure what is involved contact us, we would love to help and answer any questions you may have.

How much time does it take to care for a pony? You will need to visit your pony at least twice a day, 365 days a year. You need to make sure your pony is healthy and has everything it needs including clean water, feed, hay, grazing. Even if

you are planning to keep a pony that can live out all year you still need to clear the field of droppings and check your pony over. If you are planning on your pony living out, what will happen if your pony becomes poorly and needs to be kept in a stable? Could you afford the cost of renting a stable and will you have the time to care for your pony if it needs to be kept in for a recovery period?

What is the life expectancy of a horse or pony? It is not unusual for horses to live until their late 20s and ponies can often live longer than this. Do you know what you will be doing in 20 years time? Will you still be fit and well enough to care for your pony?

What do you want your pony for? If you are specifically looking for a pony to

or injury they could no longer be ridden? This is a very common scenario, a pony that cannot be ridden can still live a very happy and fulfilling life but would this suit you and your lifestyle? If you wanted to continue riding what would you do with your original pony? Could you afford to keep your first pony and buy another to ride?

What happens if the pony I buy is not suitable for me? Buyer beware! Unfortunately, we are hearing more and more stories of people who bought a pony and it turned out that is wasn't suitable for the purpose it was purchased for. One of the most common examples is a pony that is sold as suitable for a beginner/child to ride and once home it becomes clear that this is not the case.

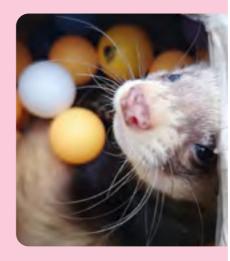
### **Fantastic Ferrets**

Since our last newsletter we have taken in seven ferrets, who have not only brought lots of personality to the centre but also lots of fun.

We have had Bear feature on our first Facebook Live, who behaved somewhat! Freya tested out the educational activities in the welcome centre and they now have her seal of approval.

They had an abundance of different enrichment created by the teams, which included sandpits, tunnels, cosy areas, shredded paper mountains and mini agility. They also had regular strolls around the centre where they got to say hello to some new friends.

They display natural behaviour from the enrichment provided, which leads to very happy ferrets!





# **Cuckoo for crafts?**

All budding artists, we need your help! Our team set themselves a lockdown project to revamp the chicken houses within Chickenham Palace and there is one left to be designed. Could you be the lucky winner with your design? We already have themes of: American Barn, Country Cottage and Romany Wagon. If you can create our next design and would like an entry sheet please contact: comms@mgar.org.uk



ride what would happen if through illness

Animal Sponson

To help animals at our centre why not become an Animal Sponsor? You can choose to sponsor either Donkeys, Pigs, Sheep, Goats, Horses or Cats. Just £5 a month can really make a difference.





Become an...

# Retail Round Up

It's been a really tough year for our retail teams as our Charity shops had to close in keeping with government guidelines surrounding Covid-19. Fast forward to June and the news that we could reopen was welcomed with open arms by the staff, shoppers and volunteers.

The safety of everyone has been uppermost in our minds and putting in place measures within the shops to ensure this has been a challenge. By implementing new ways of working, our four charity shops are now open and welcoming back customers.

During lockdown many supporters were busy clearing out their cupboards, which lead to an increase in people wishing to donate goods for the shops to sell. At times our staff have been overwhelmed with the number of donations. Whilst being fantastic that so many wish to support, we have faced some difficulties with needing to quarantine all items for 48 hours. Thank you to everyone for being so understanding of the restrictions in place.



# Community Champions

Rosie, Yvonne and their lovely dog Jess have been supporting us for many years.

When the Weymouth Charity shop opened in 2017 they set themselves up as a local donation point for people in their community to drop off donations of shop stock and food for the rescue animals. They even placed a sign on their garden gate! They sort and then deliver the items to the Weymouth shop twice a week and the amount collected while the shops were closed far exceeded expectations.

Rosie and Yvonne even arrange to ethically dispose of any items that are unsaleable. These wonderful ladies also support the annual Shoe Box appeal (see back page for details) and always go the extra mile.

Mank you Rosie, yvonne & Jess!



# Valuable Volunteers

Volunteers really are the life blood of our charity shops and we'd love you to join our fantastic teams.

When you become a retail volunteer you can commit as much or as little time as you wish – even an hour a week would really help. You will make new friends with like-minded people and be helping to make a big difference to rescue animals.

New volunteers are warmly welcomed at all of our shops. To find out more call the shop closest to you (please note all of our shops are in Dorset) We can't wait to welcome you to the team!



#### Kinson

1551 Wimborne Road, Kinson, BH10 7AZ t: 01202 582115

### Wimborne

27 Mill Lane, Wimborne, BH21 1JQ t: 01202 880462

#### Weymouth

5 St Thomas Street, Weymouth, DT4 8EW t: 01305 839201

#### Winton

531 Wimborne Road, Winton, BH9 2AP t: 01202 514976



Our estates team, based at the Church Knowle Rehoming and Visitor Centre, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5NQ are keen to hear from individuals who are able to help out with a variety of maintenance tasks on the site and occasionally at Lincoln Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre, Bere Road, Winterborne

Kingston, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 9BP and our charity shops.

Becoming an estates volunteer would see you working as part of the team, managing the grounds and would include general DIY, fitting out and updating the charity shops and prepping for onsite events. The work can mean being out in all weathers and is sometimes quite physical. All tools would be provided, all you need is a willingness to make a difference, old clothes, waterproofs and your skills. You don't need to commit to specific weeks, days or hours, your volunteer hours can be flexible, even an hour a week would really help.

Apply today by emailing: **comms@mgar.org.uk** with the subject title 'Estates Volunteer' and we can send you the application link.

Once we have your application we'll arrange an informal interview and then if everyone is happy you'll be 'on the team'.



You would be working as part of a great team who love to get stuck in and who always maintain a sense of humour.



# Forever Home stories

We absolutely love your animal updates, thank you to everyone and we hope you enjoy...

## Red

Red has recently had his first agility session and the instructor was surprised at how much he learnt in one session! He can do the tunnel on command - both the straight one and curved one. He has started on the jumps and has done two straight and two on a curve successfully. Red is an intelligent little chap. *Trudi* 

Did you know? We now have a Facebook group where you can post your Forever Home stories to share with everyone! Search 'MGAR Forever Home Stories' we would love to read your update.





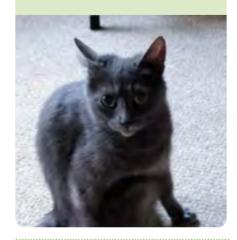
# Gnomie

Just to let you all know that Gnomie (who was called Joanie) is doing really well. We are enjoying miles of walking together and snuggling in the evening. Thank you to everyone at Wingletang for allowing me to bring her home with me. Amanda



# Sophie

Sophie is very friendly. She is adept at finding the most comfortable lap in the house. When awake, she loves exploring and playing. Celia



# Milly

This used to be my chair in the porch! Hope you are all keeping well. As you can see Milly is happy and we love her dearly. Valerie and David



## Eben

Eben has settled in so well! He loves to play, loves being brushed and when I'm watching the TV he'll jump up onto the sofa and snuggle up to me! He spends the majority of his time in the lounge, sat in front of the patio doors in the sunshine. Eben is the perfect cat for us and we couldn't have asked for a more affectionate, playful and adorable cat! Tamsin

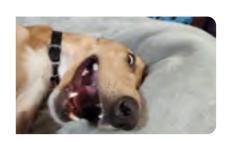


# Hobbes

Hobbes (was called Patch) has settled very well. No issues of note. seemingly very happy and contented. He's been on lots of long walks around my lovely part of the world (Milton Abbas), had run-arounds with his best friend Filby (another Greyhound/Saluki cross). He's been off lead, met lots of dogs and is having a wonderful time, so everything's going well and he's very happy. Stuart



Eddie here, just updating you on how I'm doing. I've now been with my humans for nearly 5 years! I've been pampered and spoilt rotten living the easy life. I've got a new buddy called May and we love going out on hacks together although I can't keep up with her! My 'mummy' had a baby last year and I can't wait for him to be big enough to go for a ride with me. Lots of love Eddie xx



# Ethel

Hello just wanted to give you an update on our lovely little rescue Ethel on her 2nd 'gotcha' day. She is an absolute delight and always manages to make us smile, she is such a little cutie. Don't get me wrong she has her moments! Chewing the sofa, my coat and the odd pee on the floor but we forgive her because she brings so much fun and joy to our lives. Thank for allowing us to adopt her. The Snozwell family









Donations in Wills ensure that we can continue to meet our values of Rescue, Care, Rehome and Support and is truly a gift that keeps on giving. Listed here is everyone from whom we have received a Legacy or an In Memory of donation, since our last winter newsletter.

# Mank you

### Legacies

Albert James Hearn Barbara Papworth Clara Grace Thompson Dorothy Vera Cherrett Eileen Maud Gladwish Elsbeth Lark Gladys Gertrude Warne Jane Wendy Adams Janet Maureen Marlborough Josephine Thornley Joyce Clare Judith Lillian Gifford Margaret Joyce Walker Margaret Smith Marlene Hav Maxine Sheila Mercer Peter Roy John Brackstone Rosalie Pansie Betteridge Sally Elizabeth Holmes Shirley Sweet Stephen Richard Price Yvonne Gwendoline Brewer Yvonne Mary Bulteel

#### Donations In Memory of

Anita King Anthony John Bainton Anthony John Edwards Arthur Henry Brown Barrie Willshen Betty Jean Samways Brian George James Bride Scoble C & JM White Caroline Patricia Scott Charles Samways Christine Trembath Colin David Hennessey David Godfrey Sadler **Derek Clements** Edna Baldwin Elsie Ash Ernest John Holleyoak **Geoff Millington** George Harries Gillian Mary Tomlinson Gilly Oliver

Harold Hedley Howl Henry 'Nobby' Clarke **Herbert Caine Irmtraut Simpkins** James Royley Jane Shenfield Jean Antill Jean Stickland Jeremy Ross Lesley Anne Wiseman Leslie & Bervl Bartlett Lorna Gallagher Lorraine Page Majorie Winifred Pedersen Marcus Roy Barriball Marlene Hay Mary Southgate Mr Flatters Nikki Kellaway Nina Violet Harris Norman Woodsford

Patricia Ben-Cheikh

Patricia Kathleen Hurcombe Paul Tilbury Philippa Hazel Keeling Ray Sheppard RM Southgate Robert Hayward Ronald Wellman Stella Mary Shergold Susanne Heaslip Violet Olive Cullingford Viv Mitchell Walter Hebblethwaite William Brian Anderson Winifred Joan Walters Wyn Wood



# A Lasting Legacy

One such legacy totalling over £20,000 has been left to us by Elsbeth Lark, whose family have a long association with the charity. They have a plot in the Garden of Remembrance at the Church Knowle centre and Elsbeth will be remembered in a memorial laying her ashes to rest within the plot. Elsbeth's legacy will make such a difference to our rescue animals.

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will and making a lasting legacy please contact: legacyoflove@mgar.org.uk



# **Awards & Events**



We announced our volunteer of the year awards during Our **Online Country Dog Show** event. We want to say a big congratulations to:

Maureen Cribb (Retail) Jonathan Massey (Estates) Phil & Carol Cowell (Fundraising) Mark Griffiths (Wingletang) Chris Owens (Church Knowle) Amanda Hambidge (Lincoln Farm)

# First online event - Country Dog Show

We had planned to bring you a new two day event at our Church Knowle Centre during August.

Unfortunately, this was not possible due to lockdown restrictions. Not ones to let anything get in the way of raising money for the rescue animals we decided to look at ways we could still raise funds and connect with you all online, much like we would have done at the physical event.

We were absolutely blown away with the support from those who would have visited. To our traders sending in raffle prizes and our Patron Edward Fox OBE and his wife Joanna, wanting to record a special message for you all. The event featured an online art raffle, online dog

show, virtual tour, a music evening, online auction and an online quiz! The event raised over £4,000, which really helped towards the loss of the event. You can watch back most of the event on our YouTube channel and Facebook page.

This event has now been nominated for the Charity Virtual Event Awards!





# Christmas cards

Our Christmas cards are available to buy from our Charity Shops or any of our Rescue Centres costing £4.70 for a pack of 10.

We have added Neville to our Christmas Card collection! We also have Misha the cat, Jake the donkey and Jeff the dog. Even more exciting news is that we have a 2021 calendar available to purchase for £9.50 from our Charity Shops. All our Christmas Cards and the Calendar feature designs from Lucy's Farm who has kindly gone above and beyond to support us.

Thank you so much Lucy



