

Waggy Tails Rescue

Autumn / Winter newsletter 2017



reg. charity no. 1114957

A special Christmas gift



Do you know someone who is particularly hard to buy gifts for, or maybe somebody who loves dogs but can't have one of their own? Why not consider giving them a Christmas gift of sponsoring one of our lifelong residents? We have 5 dogs currently available to sponsor, please call the office or see our website for more information and a form.

Waggy Tails 2018 Calendar

£5

We are very pleased to announce that our 2018 calendar is now available to buy from Helen's House or any of our shops. The cost is £5 and if you would like us to post one we can do this for an extra £1.30, just call or email the office to place your order. A perfect gift!

All the dogs featured in the calendar have been rehomed through the rescue, and most of the photos were taken by our volunteer Ken Thomas. Ken also had the very difficult task of choosing which dogs to feature.

Waggy Tails Variety Show

This was held on Saturday 9 September 2017 at the Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne.

Waggy Tails decided to put on their first Variety Show following the success of the Dorset Police Choir concert at the same venue the previous year.

An appeal was launched through the shops and social media to find suitable acts that were willing to perform in aid of the charity. The response was initially slow but they soon had enough artistes to make the evening a great success.

The show was opened by Helen Jenkins, a professional singer, who set a very high bench mark for the others to follow. The Prompt Corner dancers, a very talented young troop, put on a slick performance seamlessly changing the mood and style of the dances.

Steve Carter showed us what a versatile singer he is accompanied by contemporary dancer Danielle. Becky Legg played some favourite pieces on the piano and the Skittle Alley Strummers finished the first half with some rousing sing along ukulele.

A superb buffet in the foyer kept the audience busy during the interval and the second half opened with Dennis Melia a singer-songwriter and guitarist performing his stage debut. Becky then played a film theme.

Catherine and Laura Ruff, who sing with several local theatre groups, gave a superb performance individually and together and the Skittle Alley Strummers rounded off the evening with another sing along.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all and we are already talking about next year.

Christmas Card Competition 2018



We know lots of you take wonderful photographs & we are sure there are some budding artists amongst you too. We are holding a Christmas Card competition for 2018 and plan to choose 4

designs from your drawings or photographs. These will be printed on the cards which we will sell to raise funds for the rescue. The cards will be B6 size and the pictures can be either portrait or landscape. The pictures will be scanned for printing on the cards so will have to be submitted as actual size, so will need to be 125 mm by 176 mm. You will be able to email your entry as a PDF file to us at fundraising@waggytails.org.uk, or you can post drawings to us at Helen's House. You can submit more than one entry and the competition will close on 30th June 2018. We will have all the details of the competition on our website www.waggytails.org.uk and on our Facebook page Waggy Tails Rescue Dorset. Good luck, we are very much looking forward to seeing your entries.

Fostering for Waggy Tails Rescue

I started fostering dogs for Waggy Tails Rescue in 2000 and 17 years later I still get the enjoyment of helping dogs to find their forever homes. I can certainly tell you that some dogs have been harder than others, but the majority have been delightful. I have opened up my home to over 800 dogs over the years; from as young as a few days old that have needed to be fed every few hours, to dogs just needing a sunny bed and a homely feeling for their old age retirement.

I have nursed dogs back to health after being in a very poorly state and your heart just smiles to see them gain strength, confidence and then begin to blossom into happy little personalities. A lot of people would have met or heard about Milo who was paralysed and went on to have 2 very happy years in his new home. Also a Chihuahua who had to have a leg amputated. He gained a new lease of life and a family now have the enjoyment of his big character and his quirky ways.

Fostering a dog is a very rewarding experience as no two dogs are the same. To see a thin dog gain weight or an overweight one lose it, gives you a sense of achievement. When a nervous dog starts to respond positively to you for attention or cuddles it just melts the heart. Having a sick dog in your arms not knowing what to do and with your love and determination it starts to become well again, that's what makes fostering so great. As well as food and water they all need love, attention, training and, hopefully not too often, the vet.



People often ask me, 'How can you let them go?' There is a simple answer, I know I have done my best for them and now it is time for them to go to their forever homes so that I can help the next little dog in need. I think the qualities needed to be a fosterer are patience, time, devotion and most importantly is a stable home environment. Oh, a sense of humour helps as well! Some do tug on the heart strings and others you are only too happy to see them go to their new homes. So if you ask me, 'Is fostering a good idea?' I would say, fostering is not easy, in fact it can be very hard, but to see a dog gain back its life and go to a forever home is worth every second you spend with them.

If you are interested in fostering please call the Waggy Tails office for an application form.

All the best Sue W.

An Insider's View of Helen's House



This place is called a house but it is very much a home and is a lot better than the one I had. It is not my forever home, but I am loved and cared for. It is always busy here, and when you first come it is scary. We get up around 6.40 a.m. when we are let out of our cabins, and then breakfast is served. The staff get us up, feed us and wash up, and then the amazing team of volunteers arrive at 8.30 a.m. to walk, cuddle and play with us, not to mention the cleaning up after us. It is fun time until about 11 a.m. when we hear the humans say 'coffee time' and we get a quiet half an hour in our cabins. The humans finish their jobs then it is playtime again.

I had just started to settle in to a quiet life here and then two puppies arrived – so lively and full of fun. Then, as if that wasn't enough, they went and got two more!

It is very sad to lose your home but all the humans here do their very best to make us feel wanted. Like me, some of my friends have had a hard time but at Helen's House (our home) we know we are on the way to a happy ending. Oh, and by the way, I don't like my baths. By Alfie

Waggy Tails 2017 Dog Show

Our annual dog show was held at West Parley in June and turned out to be a great success. We were very lucky that the heat wave from the week before cooled down and we had a lovely day without rain. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped in so many ways from beginning to end.

The barbecue was very popular, and as always the cake stall quickly sold out. We had lots of stalls selling a variety of things from puzzles, jewellery, plants, tombola, crafts to dog items and there was even a silent auction. As if that was not enough there was the dog show with dog treats, fun classes, serious classes and then the funniest of the lot, the obstacle course. This had the crowds in stitches with dogs running off with the obstacles, going around them instead of through them, owners going through instead of the dogs, and then the dog who just bit every obstacle as they went past.

Special thanks to our Judge, Tom Mowlem from Vets4Pets, who did a great job choosing the winners from the large numbers who entered the various classes. Lots of pictures from the show are on our website under about/gallery, here is Silas, the best in show, with proud owner Sarah Henshaw.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE DOGS LEAVE WAGGY TAILS RESCUE?

Paws – from Rescue Dog to Pets As Therapy dog
Paws was adopted at the age of 6 months from Waggy Tails. He had a difficult start and initially was very fearful of other dogs, lunging and barking aggressively. Although they had not been aware of the extent of his problems when they adopted him, his new family quickly became attached to Paws and wanted to keep him. With a great deal of hard work and the help of a dog trainer, Paws' family, over a long period of time, have learned how to manage his fear aggression and now, with careful handling and slow, planned meetings, Paws has made friends with several different dogs, although he still doesn't enjoy meeting those he doesn't know. Paws' family say this about his work as a PAT dog:



Paws loves people and especially children, so when he was 5 we applied for him to be a Pets as Therapy dog. We advised them of his problems with dogs, but he passed their assessment (carried out by a vet) with flying colours, and we then

approached Bournemouth Hospital. They almost bit our hands off in their excitement and, following my own assessment, we started visiting the Stroke Unit Day room in March this year and he became Bournemouth's first ever PAT dog.

He has been a big hit with Patients and Staff, and seems to really enjoy the visits.

I think he believes everyone is visiting him, not the other way around. The patients play ball with him, give him treats, and he gives them lots of cuddles and kisses. At times he has so much fun he gets tired and falls asleep during the sessions, lying with his head on their feet.

Now we are moving on in the Pets as Therapy world to participate in the Read2Dogs programme. Paws will visit Longford Primary School in Salisbury where the children will read stories to him to help build their confidence in their reading skills. Hopefully he will be calm enough, but only time will tell.

He is a much loved pet with a great comical character, and has been worth the long and hard effort we have all as a family had to put in to him. We fondly remember when he used to shy away from our touch, yet now he paws at us, and barks for more attention. He is a good thief, and has regularly stolen bread, sandwiches, cakes and even the roast pork, not through hunger I add, just cheeky opportunity. He regularly makes us laugh, and you can see how much he loves life, and would dearly like to make friends with other dogs, but just does not have the confidence.

From Rescue to Pets as Therapy, a long road for Paws, and more obstacles yet to overcome – dogs on television, creaking doors, screaming fireworks to name a few, but even if he never overcomes them, he has enriched our lives, and so many others, and will hopefully continue to do so for many years to come. You can follow his antics on Twitter, just look up @pawschaplin in the Twitter search to view his posts. No Twitter account needed. By Val, Paws' owner

Benny from the Puppy Farm



Benny came into Waggy Tails in 2016. He had obviously been a loved and well cared for dog but circumstances changed and his original owner had to part with him. Sue took him home to foster, and it soon became apparent he had a problem with his back legs. Unfortunately this turned out to be a major issue requiring a complicated and expensive operation. Benny had been bred in Eastern Europe where the puppy farms are as bad, if not worse, than the ones in the British Isles. Joint disorders, along with many other chronic health and behaviour problems, are common in dogs from puppy farms. Please do not buy a puppy from an unknown source such as from the internet, Facebook, Gumtree, a car boot sale or a pub.

Waggy Tails arranged for the necessary operation to be carried out and after a period of recovery in Sue's care Benny was put up for adoption. This is what Benny's new owners have to say about him:

We had the absolute pleasure of adopting Benny into our family from Waggy Tails in March. He is a 4 year old miniature pinscher who originally came from Slovakia. We fell in love with him the moment we saw him! When we adopted him he had just finished hydrotherapy after recovering from Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease which required a double hip operation to treat. Before surgery he couldn't walk on his back legs and slept with his face down and bottom in the air due to his hips! He is now fit and can run as though he has never had anything wrong with him. We love Benny, he is an amazing character and we are so lucky to have the pleasure of adopting him. He has fitted perfectly into our family! We are extremely grateful to the Waggy Tails team for allowing us to be Benny's forever home.



Teddy by Foster Mum Pat



Teddy originally came into Waggy Tails Rescue a number of years ago and was adopted by two of our wonderful volunteers Cliff and Jean Grant.

Very sadly Jean died first, then two years later we lost Cliff, leaving Teddy alone. Cliff's family brought Teddy back to Waggy Tails where he quickly became a

firm favourite with everybody because he was such a gentle boy.

Pat & John had recently lost their dear old collie, Sam, and were told by Shelagh that Ted was a dear old boy who did not need much exercise and just loved to be in the garden.

So Teddy came along to join Mickey and Poppy. He settled in immediately and, contrary to expectations, just loved his walks!

A few months later, when out for a walk, Pat got knocked over by her daughter's boisterous dog and went flying, crashing onto a very hard path. The dog responsible thought she was playing a game, tried to jump on her and was very indignant when Pat shouted at her to go away!

However, Teddy, dear old boy, came galloping back to see what all the fuss was about, sniffed his mistress, knew something was wrong, and stood guard until she was able to get herself up from a very undignified position!

These elderly dogs are just such a joy.

Volunteer of the year 2017

This year the Waggy Tails Rescue Volunteer of the Year shield was awarded to Elsie Smith.



Elsie has been a volunteer since 2008, the same year she adopted Penny from Waggy Tails. She is always cheerful even when she is not feeling great and helps the charity in many ways.

She carries out home checks and is always willing to go that little bit further and travel out of the area if it helps find a dog a good home. Elsie fosters, often taking on some of the more challenging dogs, but ensuring they leave her with manners and a happy disposition. She works in the office, helps at the open day, the annual dog show and with regular collections, and has helped make items for the craft stall.

At Helen's House she can often be found on her knees sorting donations; bagging up food for the shops to sell and sorting towels, bedding and blankets. Thank you Elsie.



Thanks to the Pirates of Poole



Louis was the boxer at the Lord Nelson on Poole Quay. He passed away a while ago but he was like one of the Pirates, so they decided to honour his memory with an award in his name. Waggy Tails were the first recipient of the Louis award and were presented with a cheque for £500 at an event at Eden Vauxhall in Poole.

If you would like us to email you with details of our upcoming events please contact us at admin@waggytails.org.uk and ask us to add you to our emailing list. We will never pass your details on to anyone else.

LEGACIES

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of these people who have remembered us in their wills:

Mrs Linda Morrison

Ms Yvette Greatrex

Joan Larcombe

IN MEMORIAM

We are most grateful for donations received in remembrance of loved ones:

Ms Addy Batty

Mr Harry Bonner

Miss Beryl Charlson

Mrs Freda Curtis

Mrs Barbara Done

Mr David Giltrow

Mr Clifford Grant

Mrs Ena Grimdsdale

Mr Brian Quilter

Mrs Myra Hendy