



Scottish Charity  
No. SC014924

Incorporating **THERAPET**®

**81-85 Portland Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 4AY**

**BULLETIN 86 – April 2016**

Tel: 0131 553 0034

Email: [info@canineconcernscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@canineconcernscotland.org.uk)

Website: [www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk](http://www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk)

Dear Members and Friends,

In the past we have always sent to you a copy of the Trustees' **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**. However this year, in order to save printing costs, the Trustees have decided to publish the Report and Accounts on our website. You can see the document by going to the home page and clicking on the News/Events tab - Bulletins & Accounts and then scrolling down to Report & Accounts 2015. If you do not have access to the website but would like to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts please let Lesley and Norma in the office know and they will post a copy to you.

The Trust remains very sound financially although during 2015 it was again necessary to dip into reserves as outgoings exceeded income. The Fund Raising Committee, enthusiastically led by Trustee Simon Young, is actively seeking funding from various sources but, as I am sure you appreciate, competition for the funds that are available is great. We are delighted that **The Kennel Club Charitable Trust** has agreed to make the Trust grants in 2016 and 2017 to assist in the funding of the development of our **Reading With Dogs** and **Paws Against Stress** programmes.

Whilst on the subject of finance **MEMBERSHIPS** became due on 1<sup>st</sup> January and a great many of you have already renewed and we are extremely grateful for the large number of donations that accompanied the membership fees. For those of you who have perhaps forgotten to renew this year so far, a pink reminder slip is enclosed. If you have recently paid, or if we have put in a reminder slip in error, please accept my apologies! For Therapet Volunteers it is vital that memberships are up to date, not least from the insurance angle.

The August Bulletin will include news and stories about the **THERAPET SERVICE** and the **THERAPETS** themselves. Please send me reports of your Therapet visiting and the exploits of your Therapets in good time.

Since the January Bulletin we have been informed that the following Therapets have died:-

- "Ben" – Alan & Alison Mundie's Golden Retriever
- "Ben" – Sarah Holroyd's Collie Cross
- "Bonnie" – Barbara Wilson's Maltese/Poodle.
- "Butsy" – Susan Hamilton's Jack Russell
- "Cally" – Lorna Reid's Labrador
- "Corrie" – Joan Miller's Wire Haired Fox Terrier
- "Cory" – Lynsey Thomson's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- "Dylan" – Gillian Farmerey's Cross Breed
- "Jake" – Lesley Good's Golden Retriever
- "Lizzie" – June & Walter Dickson's Bearded Collie
- "Marti" – Elizabeth Craik's Working Sheepdog
- "Millie" – Yvonne Wilson's Border Terrier
- "Murphy" – Isabelle Coghill's Border Collie/Bearded Collie
- "Nina" – Pat Howard's Labrador

Our sympathies go out to all of you who have lost never to be forgotten pets. Thank you for participating with them in the Therapet Service and for sharing them with so many people. I hope that I have not missed any Therapets but if I have please let me know.

**Trustees:**

George Leslie BVMS MRCVS, James Macdonald, Dr Valerie J Marrian MBChB FRCP FRCPE DCH,  
Norma Murray, A Douglas Ruthven CChem FRSC, I Allan Sim BSc CA, John A Stead BSc.  
Lynsey G Thomson BSc(Hons) OT, Simon W Young BA(Hons) MBA  
**CEO/Secretary/Treasurer: Nicholas P Henley Price**

**Douglas Ruthven** became our Area Representative for Edinburgh and Lothians in 2000 since when he has done a wonderful job in building and developing the Therapet Service in the area. The Agreement he arranged with NHS Lothian for the supply of Therapets and their volunteer owners was the first of its kind and Douglas was instrumental in getting the highly successful Paws Against Stress initiative started. Quite understandably, after such a long stint, Douglas has decided to retire from his role as Area Representative but we are delighted that he is to continue as a Trustee so that we will still benefit from his knowledge, experience and expertise. I am sure that all of you who know him, and the amount of time and effort he has put in to his role, will want to join me in saying a very large and sincere **THANK YOU**.

Inevitably the decision by Douglas presented us with a problem as it was not reasonable to expect one volunteer to take on his role in its entirety. However I am delighted to tell you that over the last couple of months we have gathered together a team of members who have indicated their willingness to help with differing aspects. For instance we now have seven members to act as Area Representatives with responsibility for the assessment and placement of Therapets, three members who will co-ordinate Paws Against Stress sessions and two members who will be Reading with Dogs Co-ordinators. For members in the Edinburgh and Lothians area a sheet giving details of the Team is enclosed. I should add that there are a number of members who, whilst not on the list are willing to help. Inevitably the handover from Douglas will take a little time but as there is so much goodwill on all sides I am sure that teething troubles will be overcome. Lesley and Norma in the office are there to help and will channel enquiries to the appropriate member of the Team.

The response to the request to members to complete the **Questionnaire**, which was issued with the January Bulletin, was excellent and I am grateful to all of you who sent in your forms. I am still analysing all the information but once that task is complete I will be able to share with our Area Representatives information about who in their area is willing to provide additional help. The responses to the questions about the places being visited, the frequency of visits, and the approximate number of people who benefit from your visits with your Therapets will enable us to provide more specific information to potential funders.

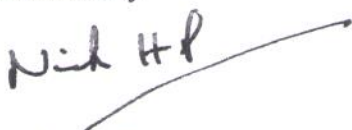
As many of you already know the **READING WITH DOGS** programme is now moving ahead and Trustee Lynsey Thomson is due a big vote of thanks for all the work she has put in with a pilot course at Bannockburn Primary School and the development of guidelines as to how Reading With Dogs sessions should be organised. A leaflet setting out these guidelines is enclosed. Many of you indicated on your questionnaires that you would be interested in participating in this new aspect of the Therapet Service. Please remember that your Therapet must have been visiting adults regularly for at least a year before being considered for work with children, that your Area Representative will need to carry out a new assessment of your Therapet and that your PVG Scheme membership will have to be upgraded for regulated work with children. Please contact your Area Representative or the office for more help and guidance.

This year our **AWARDS LUNCH** will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November in the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate. Please put the date in your diaries, and more information about it and the nomination procedure for **Therapet of the Year** will be included in the August Bulletin and on line from the web site to download nearer the time.

Finally, please see the website (News/Events tab – Come & Meet Us) for details of the events at which the Trust will be in attendance during the year.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick H P". A long, thin, curved line extends from the end of the signature towards the right and slightly downwards.

**Nick Henley Price**