



Bulletin No. 104 Spring 2022

Dear Members, Volunteers, Therapets and Friends

We have had an extremely busy first quarter, with huge demand for our services and for requests to assess potential new Therapets. Since 5th January, we have registered 77 new Therapets across Scotland, and many more are in the processing stage. As this newsletter is rather late in the month, it means we have been able to include some 'hot off the press' news about our Therapet Visiting Services.

Welcome New Therapets!

Welcome to all new Therapets and Volunteers; we hope you are able to start visiting soon if you have not already done so. If you are able to attend them, 'Paws Against Stress' events are a good way of getting some experience if we cannot offer you a more regular place to visit yet. Your local Area Representative will send out information on these unless there is a 'PAWS' specific coordinator in your area. Below are photos of some Therapets who have started in the last six months.



RUBY

HARVEY

BONNIE

COOKIE

LUNA

East Dunbartonshire & North Lanarkshire



Pepper in Edinburgh

Lily in Banff

Bear in Kilmarnock

Skye in Prestwick

Sadly, I have attended the funerals of two of our volunteers recently. The first was Jane Green in Edinburgh, who volunteered, along with her late husband, with Therapets Molly and Rosie. They visited a variety of places throughout Edinburgh and shortly before she died, Jane had been thinking of ways we could support each other in times of need. One of the possibilities she discussed with a friend was to have a network where Therapet volunteers support each other, for instance, when someone needs assistance looking after their Therapet in times of medical emergencies. If this is something you think would be of use and would be interested in helping to establish, please let us know. We are very pleased that one of Jane's dogs will be staying on as a Therapet in the capable hands of another of our volunteers who knows her well.

The second funeral was for Margaret Ewing, our Area Representative for Badenoch & Strathspey. Margaret had been a member with us since 2014 and took on the Area Rep role in 2017. She was such a vivacious character with so much positivity and zest for life that she will be a huge loss to our team and the community. She had the ability to make everyone feel comfortable, as if they had known her for years, and was an amazing organiser who repeatedly won our annual award for raising the most money in a sponsored event, by organising the 'Stepping Out for Scotland' sponsored walk that her predecessor had established. It was such a pleasure to work with Margaret and there were always laughs and plenty of hugs when she was around. Margaret's family could not stress enough how passionately she believed in the therapeutic effect animals have when working with humans, and said it was her wish to have her funeral donations given to us. We are humbled and of course delighted that over £1000 was raised in cheques and through our Just Giving page. Thank you kindly to all who donated. It was therefore very fitting that several of our volunteers were able to attend Margaret's funeral and Therapets formed a lovely 'guard of honour' as she left the church for her final resting place.

Both of these ladies were so involved in their respective communities that their presence will be sorely missed. We send condolences and support to both families and hope that their relationship with us continues. Photo is Margaret receiving the 'Ki-Chu-Asha Stars of Hope Memorial Award' from Honorary Lifetime President, Douglas Ruthven, in 2019 for the organiser whose walk raised the most money.



Our last newsletter was a bumper edition and since then, we have been inundated with photos of your Therapet experiences. We usually try to publish everything shown on social media in the bulletin for those unable to view certain sites like Facebook, however, this simply won't be possible with the number of photos we are being sent now. We'll show a selection from different activities in each newsletter.

As the Covid regulations ease further, we may resume some face-to-face volunteer social gatherings/meetings across areas in the near future. These would be a good opportunity to meet other volunteers. If you have ideas on venues, activities etc, please do contact either me or your Area Representative as we would love to hear from you. We will have a stand in the trade hall at the SKC Show at the Royal Highland Centre from 20-22nd May so may see some of you there!

As always, we are here to answer any questions that you may have and support you in your volunteer experience. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Our office phones (0131 553 0034) are on from 10am - 4pm Mon-Fri with an answer phone outside of this time.

Take care everyone

Mel Hughes, CEO

News from the Trustee Directors

The latest Board meeting took place earlier this month. There was a lot on the agenda as usual, discussing updates to the charity's Risk & Controls Register, GDPR and our purging of old records, considering reports from the committees on Therapet matters, Animal Health, Education & Legislation and Finance & Fundraising, and responding to the CEO's report.

New Chair

The Directors are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Diane Wood as our new Chair, following the retirement from this position of Mr. Allan Sim. Allan was appointed a Trustee in 2004 and took on the Chair role in April 2017, following on from George Leslie. We are very grateful to Allan for his hard work and leadership over the last five years and are extremely pleased that he is remaining on the Board as a Trustee Director.



Diane has been an Area Representative since 2000, firstly in Inverness & the Highlands, and then since 2006 in the Aberdeenshire region. She is passionate about our interactions with dogs, particularly those involving children and those who have dog phobias. She was one of the key people to get the Aberdeen Airport Canine Crew initiative underway and even got her son involved in Therapet visits. Her current Therapets are Naso, an Italian Segugio, and Breagh, a Golden Retriever, a breed which Diane adores.

Expenses

Due to the rising cost of living, and in particular, the cost of fuel, the Board has agreed to increase the mileage allowance from 30p per mile to 45p per mile. All volunteers are entitled to claim mileage for attending Therapet activities so if you need an 'expenses' claim form, please contact our office.

Annual Awards Lunch

As we are not yet fully operational across the country, the Board decided that it would be unfair to run an awards ceremony this year. We will therefore plan one for November 2023. If you are still holding onto one of our trophies from the last award ceremony, please contact our office to arrange to have it returned for safe keeping - thank you.

Membership Renewal 2022

Thank you to those who have joined us again this year! If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible; particularly if you intend to undertake any Therapet visiting this year. Please contact the office to do so.

If you are a new member and have paid membership fees between 1st October and 31st December 2021, you will not need to pay membership fees until 2023.

Canine Crew returns from Furr-lough!

Hot off the press!

29th April 2022 saw our award-winning Canine Crew at Aberdeen Airport back in action after two years of pandemic induced inactivity. Amidst a fanfare of media attention, interviews, and of course, passenger and staff interaction, the Canine Crew brought smiles everywhere they went. Here is an excerpt from the article on Aberdeen Airport's website <https://bit.ly/CanineCrewReturn>



"Fraser Bain, Airport Duty Manager at Aberdeen International Airport, said: "Our Canine Crew has been a hit with passengers and staff ever since our four-legged friends came to the airport.

"We are delighted they are able to return and build on the fantastic job that was already started before the pandemic.

Diane Wood, lead representative and Trustee from Canine Concern Scotland Trust, said: "Our Crew are delighted to be back in the terminal meeting passengers and staff – and the canine crew members can't wait to be off of furr-lough."

The Press & Journal also interviewed some of our team and their article may be found here <https://bit.ly/PawsitivePandJArticle>

Compassionate Accompaniment Partnership

We are excited to announce that we are teaming up with Misty Hannah at Compassionate Accompaniment CIC (Community Interest Company) to provide Therapets for sessions where there is a need for a dog to add a new element to their wellbeing or emotional support sessions. Compassionate Accompaniment provides ongoing support for "self-compassion/well-being, grief support, caregiver support and end of life accompaniment" working throughout Central Scotland and is currently discussing opportunities in Forth Valley hospital.

One of our volunteers is already involved with Compassionate Accompaniment and feels that the addition of a Therapet is a natural connection that brings a sense of calm to the sessions. If you would like to be involved in Misty's work, please let us know as she is keen to have a list of people that she may contact when she has a need for a Therapet.

<https://www.compassionateaccompaniment.com/>



Photo is Therapet Vance, from West Lothian, who will also be working with Compassionate Accompaniment.

Dog Lover Show

Aberdeen

In March we had a stand at the P&J Live for the inaugural Aberdeen 'Dog Lover Show'. Over the two days, Therapets Barley, Dora, Doug, Heidi, Leo, McKenzie, Mischa, and Naso were exhausted from all of the cuddles and compliments they received. As it was the first show of its kind in Aberdeen, there weren't as many dogs attending, so our Therapets were extremely popular. Thank you everyone involved!



Glasgow



In April, our volunteers attended the same event at the SEC in Glasgow. This is always a busy show, and this year did not disappoint. Therapets Harley, Milo, Molly and Tia were in attendance and very happy to let people have a breather while walking around. Thanks again everyone - it was great to be back out there at live events!

Down Your Street!

Thanks to Therapet volunteer Jillian Robb-McMahon in Fife, for including us in Fife Council's Spring edition of 'Down Your Street' Council Community Handbook. This provides Council tenants with information on services and activities in their local area. The article may be found here

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/council-housing/tenant-participation>.

The photo included in the article shows Therapets Jilli, Phoebe and Halley attending a 'PAWS Against Stress' event at Fife College.



Fundraising and Donations

As a charity we rely solely on donations and grants from charitable trusts and all of the money raised goes into the administration and operation of the charity, in particular, our Therapet Visiting Service. We have some ideas for fundraising on our website:

<https://www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk/donations-fundraising> under the categories **Individual, Group, School, Sponsorship, and Wills**. If you have fundraising ideas and would like to discuss them, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

We have a JustGiving page that is accessible from our website and many supporters use this to make donations throughout the year

Fundraising Events

Our 'Stepping Out For Scotland' sponsored walk hasn't been organised yet as we have been so busy with getting things 'operational' again dealing with the influx of new assessments and visit requests. May seems to be 'National

Walking Month' and many charities run sponsored events during this time. If you are participating in any of these, we would love for you to take your dog along if able, to keep you and them fit for their ongoing Therapet activities!

Creative Fundraising

A huge thank you to Maureen Hill in Dumfries & Galloway, who raised over £400 just before Christmas by making and selling dog treat gifts and crackers. Maureen was formerly our Area Rep for the region and has supported the charity for over many years by making and selling items including dog beds. We are very grateful to Maureen who has been with us for over 20 years.

Another Funeral Collection

We received a very kind donation of £200 from the funeral collection of Joao Paulo Gomes - known as Paulo, donated to the charity by Volunteers Lynn Knox and partner Davie Mackie, owners of Therapets Bifur and Gimli, Stirlingshire. Paulo's partner Jeanette described him as 'a very loving man, he had a great love for dogs and cats and loved the work carried out by Therapets, he had good bond with Therapets Gimli and Bifur and would have been very happy that the money collected was going to such a worthy cause'.

Distillery Dogs!

There are two distilleries that are doing some fundraising for us this year. A number of charities will each receive a share of the money raised from selling half barrel planters at the Glenfiddich Distillery during their Charity Week. In 2020, we also received a donation from them and some of our Therapets paid a visit...although not for a whisky tour! Therapet Dee Dee (pictured) has been helping her mum out as poster dog.



The Balmenach Distillery that makes Caorunn Gin has adopted us as their 'Charity of the Year' and any proceeds they make from selling used bottles as bottle lamps will be donated to us. Thank you everyone!

Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

A team of pupils from St George's School in Edinburgh won £3000 for us in their Youth Philanthropy Initiative challenge right at the end of 2021. The YPI is a "powerful active citizenship programme, empowering young people to make a difference in their communities while developing a range of skills" <https://ypiscotland.org.uk/>. Supported by the Wood Foundation, the YPI allows pupils to develop skills they will need in life, while learning about and championing a charity that is of importance to them. Over 250 schools in Scotland participate in this, and we work with about a hundred young people a year on their project.

It was a pleasure working with this team of young ladies, whose in-depth presentation demonstrated their understanding of what we do as well as what they feel is important in our role as humans having animals as pets. We are now working on their ideas to provide some Therapet services for the school community.



Hot off the press – NHS Visiting Update!

Up until now, Therapet visiting has been suspended in all regions. We cannot return to NHS premises until the the office has received written confirmation from the Infection Control teams at the Board level. Earlier this month, NHS Tayside approved outdoor visiting, providing our volunteers complete the Occupational Health check which asks about childhood vaccinations and history of specific diseases. The good news is that we have just heard that NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, and NHS Lothian have given the green light to resume visits. Paperwork is still being completed though so please don't just turn up at a site. Area Representatives will be in touch with volunteers once requests start coming in and we can resume these services - hopefully this will be in the next couple of weeks.

NHS Boards that we work with require NHS staff to ask for Therapet visits through their NHS Volunteer Coordinator - individual staff should not be contacting Therapet volunteers directly, even if you had a relationship with

them pre-covid. Once the relevant infection control teams have approved Therapet Visits, the NHS Volunteer Coordinator will contact our office or the respective Area Representative when visits are required. If you are asked by anyone else, please refer them to either the office or your Area Representative so we may ensure they have followed the NHS protocols.

In Memory of...

Every year we celebrate the lives of our animals who have given so much to us as family pets and to others as Therapets. Since our last newsletter, we have sadly said goodbye to the following Therapets:



Ash, Labrador Retriever, owned by Elizabeth Ferguson, Aberdeen

Registered in 2017, Ash was a retired guide dog and a welcome visitor to Angusfield Care Home, Aberdeen, where he enjoyed his Therapet role. With his visiting service curtailed by lockdown, Ash retired in 2021 due to ill health, and was able to 'put his paws up' and take a well-earned rest from his Therapet duties. Ash was thirteen and a half.

Breagha, Cocker Spaniel, owned by Patricia Riddick, Perthshire

Registered in the middle of the lockdown in 2020, Breagha unfortunately didn't get the chance to show us what a great Therapet she would have been. As owner Patricia told us, Breagha loved meeting people and liked to cuddle in - like so many of our Therapets! Breagha will be missed by all who knew her.

Carrie, Old English Sheepdog, owned by Christine Fairgrieve, North Lanarkshire

Carrie had been a registered Therapet since 2015 and received her well-deserved 5-year medal in 2020. Carrie, together with owner, volunteer and Area Representative, Christine, were frequent visitors - North Lanarkshire wide! Carrie, had such love for people and her insatiable appetite for her Therapet duties, meant she was in great demand! Visiting both young and old, her volunteering included 'Reading with Dogs' in schools, and dog phobia work with CAMHS, as well as bringing smiles to the elderly residents of Coathill and Wester Moffat hospitals, and Raywards and Drumpelzier Lodge Care homes. Carrie also 'treaded the boards' when selected to work with the children in the Monklads Light Opera Company version of 'Annie' in 2019 - to great 'applaws'. Joint runner-up to Therapet of the Year 2019, Carrie will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her - especially her family and Therapet housemates, Tia and Murphy and the rest of her doggy family.

Charlie, Old English Sheepdog, owned by Christine Fairgrieve, North Lanarkshire

Charlie had been a Therapet since 2019 and he undertook his Therapet duties until lockdown. Charlie was one of Christine's dogs who attended sessions at Shotts Prison, Lanarkshire, where the prisoners became involved in 'training' a dog to a certain level of obedience as part of a series of sessions that were well received by prisoners and staff alike. Charlie had been a neglected rescue with multiple health issues, but with the love and care of his family and his Therapet work, he reached the grand old age of 10 and a half years and had a full life. Charlie will be sorely missed by his family and Therapet Housemates, Tia and Murphy and the rest of the doggy family.

Dylan, Cocker Spaniel, owned by Anne-Marie Campbell, Stirlingshire

Registered as a Therapet in 2012, Dylan was one of the original Therapets in the 'Reading with Dogs' pilot scheme started in Bannockburn Primary School, Stirlingshire. He also loved visiting of Thorntree Care Home, and undertaking 'PAWS Against Stress' sessions at Stirling University and Falkirk College as part of nearly 10 years of Therapet service. Well done Dylan - what a hero! Dylan will be sadly missed by owner Anne-Marie and all who knew and loved him.

Harley, Patterdale, owned by Lesley Wilson, Midlothian

Registered as a Therapet in 2017, Harley became a welcome regular visitor to the Stroke Unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Harley was a well-seasoned Therapet - with a five-year medal to prove it! He brought a smile to the faces of those he visited and will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Healey, Labrador Retriever, owned by Andy May, Edinburgh

Healey became a Therapet in 2018 at the grand old age of 10 and was a frequent and very welcome visitor to Liberton Hospital in Edinburgh where she brought smiles to the faces of the elderly patients there. As owner Andy tells us, 'it was time for Healey to chase the squirrels forevermore'. Healey will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Holly, Bichon/Westie/Maltese, owned by Lise Tole, Edinburgh

A Therapet since 2019, Holly was a popular visitor to Ellen's Glen Hospital, where a warm welcome awaited both Holly and Lise. She was a regular attendee at 'Paws Against Stress' events at Edinburgh University and as a visitor to Craigmillar High School among others, Holly's visits were very much appreciated. She will be sadly missed by those she knew and loved - none more so than her owner Lise and fellow Therapet Maggie.

Jinty, Chocolate Labrador, owned by, Marie McKenna, Glasgow

Registered as a Therapet in 2015, Jinty, was a well-deserved recipient of a 5-year medal, with over 7 years of service. Therapet Jinty was a regular and welcome visitor to Gartnaval Hospital in Glasgow, where she brought smiles all round! Together with volunteer owner Marie, they were very much appreciated at 'Paws against Stress' events and as visitors for more than 2 years to Drummore Primary School. Jinty will be very much missed by all.

Josh, English Springer Spaniel, owned by Barbara Todd, Orkney

Josh had been a registered Therapet since 2016 and had received his well-deserved 3-year certificate when he retired due to age in January 2021, along with his then Therapet housemate Alfie, the Collie. Both had been long standing visitors with owner Barbara to Smiddybrae Day Centre Dounby in Orkney, where they were especially welcomed by the residents and staff alike - bringing smiles all round. Alfie sadly died last year and now Josh has gone to join him over the 'rainbow bridge'. Josh will be very sorely missed!

Kite, English Setter, owned by Kirsteen Shepherd, Aberdeen

Kite joined the Therapet service in 2018. Retiring when COVID hit, meant that Kite 'enjoyed lots of time on the sofa in his remaining years' - owner Kirsteen tells us. Well done Kite - you are much missed and fondly remembered.

Kobe, Siberian Husky, owned by Stephanie and David Torlay, South Lanarkshire

Registered as a Therapet in 2019, along with his Therapet housemates, Loki and Nymeria (Siberian Huskies too), Kobe was a welcome visitor to Whitehills Care Home in Aberdeen until lockdown when he was just getting into his Therapet visiting stride! Sadly missed by all who knew him and fellow Therapets Loki and Nymeria.

Mollie, Miniature Schnauzer, owned by Elaine McKendrick, North Lanarkshire

Mollie became a registered Therapet in 2018 and received her 3-year certificate for the variety of work she carried out - including but not exclusively, her one-to-one home visits, Coatbridge & Airdrie libraries & Bellshill Cultural Centre, and Summerlee Museum Winterfest in December last year. Area Representative, Christine Fairgrieve, described Mollie as 'a great wee Therapet'. She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Nairn, Labrador Retriever, owned by John McFarlane, Glasgow

Nairn had been a Therapet visitor since 2014 and had received his 5-year medal when he retired from active Therapet duties earlier this year. Nairn was a well-loved Therapet wherever he went including, but not exclusively, 'PAWS Against Stress' sessions, Adams House, Wallace Court, and Sandwood Primary School. Beloved by the pupils at Sandwood Primary School - owner John McFarlane presented them with a framed photo of Nairn to display and remember him by. Nairn certainly won't be forgotten by all those who knew and loved him.

Sandy, Golden Retriever, owned by Dorothy Cyster, Perthshire

Registered as a Therapet in 2017, Sandy was a welcome visitor to the Garry Tummel and Leven psychiatric wards at the Murray Royal Hospital in Perth. Sandy had to stop visiting in 2019 due to ill health, and sadly died in July 2021, but will be remembered and loved by all who knew him.

Sophie, Working Cocker Spaniel, owned by Denise McKenzie, Edinburgh

Registered in 2017 when she was 9 years old, Sophie was a regular visitor to ward 108 of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where her presence together with volunteer Denise was very much appreciated by staff and patients. When Covid struck however, like so many keen Therapets, Sophie's visiting was unfortunately curtailed. She will be sorely missed.

Troy, German Shepherd, owned by Elizabeth Scott, Glasgow

Troy had been registered as a Therapet in 2012 and received his very well earned 10-year medal for his long service to the Trust, a rare and valued achievement. What a hero Troy! Together with volunteer owner Elizabeth, Troy was a frequent and regular visitor (before lockdown stopped all visiting) to the New Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, Croftfoot Primary School, and 'PAWS Against Stress' events. He will be so sadly missed by owner Elizabeth and all who knew and loved him.

A Lovely Poem by Barbara Todd, retired volunteer from Orkney, in memoriam of her two Therapets - Josh and Alfie

Josh

Yet again I've lost a friend,
This time is truly the end.
Of fifty years of having pets,
This is the last, with no regrets.

No more walks along the sand,
Or up the hill to unknown land.
Or chasing birds till they take flight,
And getting up at dead of night.

Your time with us was far too short,
We rescued you from being shot.
Your owner died, you had to go,
Your working days had seen you through.

But some kind lad took you away,
To a rescue centre one winter's day.
And there you found your forever home,
Thus save you from impending doom.

But now you're gone a faithful friend,
Always loyal right to the end.
Goodbye Josh, we miss you loads,
Now walk with Alfie along heaven's roads.

Pet Health

Spring is here and summer is on the way, so this is the time creepy crawlies abound. Ticks are common already – traditionally there is a 'spring rise' in tick population with ambient temps reaching 10 degrees, but nowadays you can find ticks in February with the milder winters we have seen. It is really important to have regular external and internal parasite control for your pets. After a walk, also check yourself as well as your pets for ticks, particularly if you have been in long grass, bracken etc, as ticks are vectors of the organism that causes Lyme Disease. The advice on the NHSUK website for tick removal is:

To remove a tick safely:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers or a tick-removal tool. You can buy these from some pharmacies, vets and pet shops.
2. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible.
3. Slowly pull upwards, taking care not to squeeze or crush the tick.
4. Dispose of it when you have removed it.
5. Clean the bite with antiseptic or soap and water.

The chance of getting ill is low. You do not need to do anything else unless you notice a rash or become unwell.

Bites and stings from bees, wasps, mosquitos, ants, adders, and other insects are also common so if in doubt, contact your vet for advice.

Photography Protocol

We will be running a webinar soon with information on using photographs on social media and how to take and send the best shots for us to upload to our pages. In the meantime, please remember that we are not permitted to take photographs of anyone we support, unless they have completed our 'Picture Consent Form'.



Therapets Leo, Misty, Olive, Pippin, Ralph & Zela at Subsea 7

If you have been to a PAWS event at a university, you may have noticed them asking students to sign the university photo consent form, thereby allowing them to publish photos of the session online. What usually happens is they then share or 'tag' us in the photo and we are then permitted to use the photos as they are in the public domain.



Care homes may have had residents, or their family members sign their own consent forms, but to be safe, we do not take photos unless it is of the dog and volunteer only. If a resident/participant asks you to take a photo on their own device, that is allowed as it means we are not holding their data on our devices!

Therapets Della and Luca at a community nurse training day in Hamilton

In schools, we will sometimes ask for consent forms to be completed, but do not assume that if you have given the forms to the school that they have been signed by a parent/guardian. The safest option is to have the school take the photos and share them with us as they will obtain any necessary consent. If you have any questions on this, please contact your Area Rep or our office.

Therapets Bonnie (right) & Ellie(below) show us how schoolwork is done!



Therapet Merchandise

We have various items available for purchase that official Therapets and volunteers may wear when representing us at events. These include bandanas and coats for the dogs, as well as t-shirts and sweatshirts for volunteers. More information is available on our website

<https://www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk/merchandise-2022>

We are looking to order lanyards for wearing to events such as those where we give talks, dog shows, and some 'PAWS Against Stress' sessions. It would not be appropriate to wear them to every place we visit but would look good elsewhere.

We are also looking into gilets and fleeces as an alternative to sweatshirts.

Please note: Therapets are not assistance dogs and therefore we should not be using their coats/bandanas/lead flashes when they are not in a Therapet session, for example, to gain access to shops or other areas where dogs are not generally permitted.



Volunteer Coordination Roles

Area Representatives

We would like to welcome Clair Petrie from Inverurie who will be joining the **Aberdeenshire** team as our 'PAWS Against Stress Coordinator'. She will also be undertaking assessments as needed to support Diane. Clair has two Therapets, Dora and Enzo who are Labrador Retrievers, and is an enthusiastic advocate of our Therapet work. Clair is pictured earlier with Diane and their dogs at the Aberdeen Dog Lover Show.

In **Ayrshire**, after a short stint, George Brabender has stepped down from his role. If you would like to help Shirley Denovan, who is overseeing Ayrshire North and West, there or elsewhere in Ayrshire, we would love to hear from you.

With the sad passing of Margaret Ewing, **Badenoch and Strathspey** is without an Area Rep. Stewart Donald has been covering this region, however, if one of you in this area is keen to take this on, please let us know.

We would like to welcome our new Area Representative for **Midlothian**, Andy Waugh. Andy has two Working Cocker Spaniels, Tilly, and Mara, who are mother and daughter and both Therapets. Andy has been with us since 2018 and helps out with a variety of Therapet events.

Vacant Positions

We have several opportunities available. Not all of these necessitate having a dog - and we are always looking for help from volunteers who may have experience in areas such as marketing, design, fundraising etc. Also, roles that you see below may be split into smaller roles if you felt you would like to help out but not take on the full responsibility. e.g., someone overseeing 'Paws against Stress' events, school activities or assessing and placing new volunteers. Or it might be a geographical split due to the size of the region you may be in. Please email Mel on mel.hughes@canineconcernscotland.org.uk if you would like to know more about any of these positions.

- Ayrshire South Area Representative
- Badenoch & Strathspey Area Representative
- Dumfries & Galloway Area Representative
- East Lothian Area Representative
- Perthshire Area Representative

A 'Tail' from a Newbie

A beginner's story 'told by' Therapet Lucy, via her handler, Michael Percival

Hello, I'm Lucy and I'm a newbie to therapetting. I'm a black lab with very big 'love me' brown eyes. I'm a bit different 'cos my human doesn't own me, he just sort of 'borrows me', the charity call it 'handles me'. Technically I'm owned by Katrina McCartney - but Michael Percival is my 'andler'!

I started therapetting in September last year as the dreaded Covid 19 started to relax its hold on the population. I visited a lovely couple in our village, but the lady wasn't too well and sadly we had to stop our visits - soon, the couple had become one. I never got to visit there again but I had good memories of my time with them!

My human wanted to 'pay his respects' to the lady, and although I wasn't sure what that meant - I felt that I wanted to do that too.

We were so surprised when we were both invited to a lovely service and were

allowed to do just that. This made us both think, 'Wow', did we make such an impact in such a short time? Yup, I did....and..... he did his bit as well!



Deena's Tail

In February, there was an article in the Dunfermline Press about Siberian Husky, Deena, who was rescued from the Chinese meat trade as a young, injured pup. She now lives happily in Scotland and has a long life ahead of her. Deena registered as a Therapet in December 2021 and is now visiting a care home. You can read about her journey here

<https://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/19924521.crossgates-rescue-dog-china-helps-care-home/>

Not all dogs will be suitable for Therapet work, whether they are rescued or not, but this is just one of many heart-warming 'tails' of success we hear about regularly among our volunteers. A lovely note to end this newsletter on!

Please remember to send us articles and photographs for our next newsletter in September. Deadline for these is 1st September 2022.