

HOLLY HEDGE Newsletter

CHRISTMAS 2006 ISSUE



Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future



"Milly says 'A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to everyone' – She wishes all her 4-legged friends at Holly Hedge will have happy endings just like her.



A reformed character – Milly



We all remember Milly – who could forget the ferocious little creature with half her fur missing who would throw herself against the bars of her kennel in a (fairly convincing) attempt to look fierce and scare people away? Milly had been picked up by the Dog Warden as a stray – she had been a 'latch key' dog who was allowed to roam the streets by herself all day, scavenging for food. When she was brought to us she was very thin and had a bad case of mange which had caused her to scratch away all the fur on her lower back, stomach and back legs. She looked a sorry state and had lost a lot of trust in humans – but who could blame her after the way she had been treated! Luckily most of her displays of aggression were just a front and once she trusted you, Milly was the most loving and affectionate dog in the world – she was also full of energy and loved her toys. Her fur grew back and she became the shiniest, most beautiful little black collie x. It still took a while until some wonderful people saw past Milly's attitude and gave her a home. As you can read, they don't regret it.

After many happy years with our Border Collie Cassie, who finally through ill health and old age had to be put to sleep, we were once again knocking on your door as all our pets have come from Holly Hedge.

After looking around my husband and I decided we would like to adopt **Milly**. When we were told of her many problems we still wanted to give her a chance as she needed us as much as we needed her.

For the first two months she bit us (not hard) on a daily basis, but we persisted with lots of love and attention and she soon began to trust us. This was the turning point. Since then she has been the most loving dog we have ever owned and has become a major part of our lives. To say an animal can't change is unfair. With love and trust she has become our companion for life.

She enjoys life to the full, from chasing squirrels down the park to playing with her toys. She is very affectionate and obedient. We can do anything with her now, from grooming to giving her a bath, both of which she enjoys.

She is a big baby at heart and always eager to please. Milly is now a totally different dog to when we adopted her two years ago. She is very happy and we wouldn't be without her.

Are rescue dogs worth the effort?

Yes They Are!

Mr & Mrs Harris and Milly



GRAND 40'S NIGHT

A good time was had by all at the 'Grand 40's' night held at Pill Social Club on 17 November 2006. The New Parkway Showband played brilliantly and was a huge hit with Big Band music lovers who danced the night away. Ken and Claire Simpson did us proud with a delicious buffet and everyone enjoyed the evening – so much so that we hope to be doing it again next year.

The total raised was **£1011.....** all in all a good night's work!

We were so sorry that Dave Owen, (affectionately known as 'Mr Pluck-a-Duck') couldn't make it due to illness. He was so looking forward to showing us all up on the dance floor! We wish him a speedy recovery and hope he will soon be back on his webbed feet very soon.



May I first of all apologise for the lateness of the Christmas Newsletter.

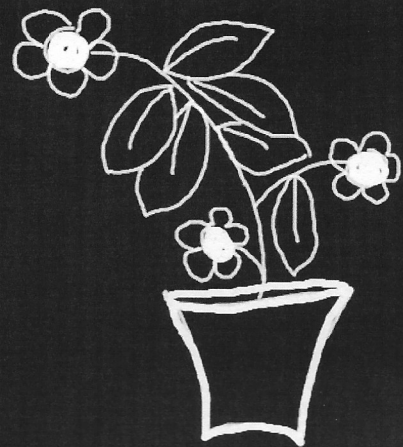
I only have myself to blame for not starting it earlier but sometimes the best intentions don't go according to plan. With Christmas just around the corner Holly Hedge is bursting at the seams with unwanted animals. Staff cope brilliantly with all the chaos and out of hours emergencies surrounding this time of year. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of members of the public all our rescues enjoy an extra special Christmas dinner and receive presents and treats as well as Christmas stockings. In the past year Holly Hedge have rehomed 224 dogs, 246 cats, 16 rabbits, 20 guinea pigs, 2 chinchillas, 1 hamster and 1 tortoise. Unfortunately our homing figures have dropped slightly but other animal charities are experiencing the same problem. We can only surmise this is a sign of the times, with many people working long hours and feel they don't have enough time for a pet, plus the cost of veterinary treatment can be off-putting. When people have to pay out hundreds or even thousands of pounds on treating a sick pet or have an intricate operation performed, some think twice about taking on another animal. We always advise adopters to take out pet insurance in case of expensive treatment but not every-one can afford this, especially if there is a high excess charge. The Sanctuary's vet. bills are always huge even with discount but no animal is ever denied treatment as long as there is quality of life. We do our utmost to give all our rescues the best possible chance of a happy future including those that are not so easy to rehome. If we became too selective we would lose sight of our objective – which is to help animals in need to the best of our ability. This we do wholeheartedly, thanks to such wonderful public support.

The weather may be pretty miserable at this time of year but the cats aren't too bothered as they have nice warm accommodation, also we have purchased weatherproof roller blinds which have been installed on the outside corridors. This has solved the problem of rain driving into the outside runs and making part of the floor wet when the wind is blowing in that direction. Now the cats can sit outside in their playhouses if they want to and as the blinds are see through their outlook isn't impaired. The blinds act as a sunscreen as well in summer giving them shade when the sun is beating down, a very good buy indeed, and much appreciated by our feline rescues. Grateful thanks to Jean for her generous contribution towards them. Unfortunately at present the dogs in our main kennel block don't enjoy the same luxury. Although the inside bedroom areas are heated the outdoor runs are exposed to the elements with inadequate cover and the kennels need repositioning and rebuilding. We are endeavouring to raise enough money to fund this project for the comfort of our rescues and the staff who care for them. Just over a year ago we started off with a small but flourishing team of fund-raisers. Well that small group has easily quadrupled and we have a team to be proud of. This is largely down to one person's sheer hard work, organisation and tenacity. With Gerry Watkins at the helm our kennel block fund has reached a staggering £65,000. Our fund-raisers have gone from strength to strength, and we are so proud of what their combined efforts have accomplished. They are on a mission fuelled by absolute dedication and commitment, determined to reach our target of £250,000. It is our aim to continue to improve facilities for all our rescued animals and strive to give them the best care during their stay with us. With Christmas just 2 weeks away, staff are busy planning our animals festive dinner and wrapping up their presents from Santa Claws. The only thing they will miss out on is a home of their own, but their turn will come. At least for now, until something better comes along they are safe, well looked after and very much loved. Thanks to all our staff, volunteers and everyone who has helped us to give our rescues the quality of life they so deserve and for supporting us in our quest to give them all happy endings.

*As we prepare for another challenging year ahead
we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



Pauline Leeson - Founder and Chief Executive



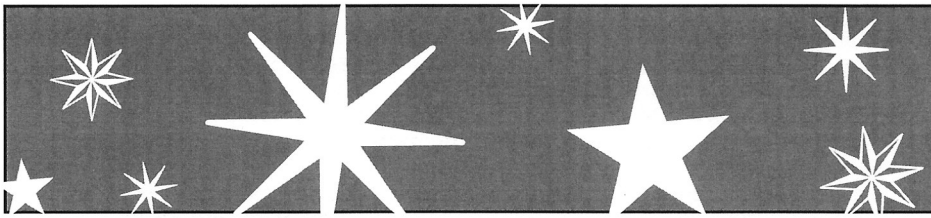
TOXIC PLANTS & FLOWERS

**To make sure your cat
(or any other pet) is
safe, you should be
aware of the following
toxic flowers and plants
which could be deadly
for your pet:**

**Lilies, daffodils, deadly
nightshade, ivy, privet,
rhododendrons, irises,
cyclamen, poinsettia,
amaryllis, laburnum,
foxgloves, bluebells,
clematis, hyacinths,
yew, chrysanthemums,
crocuses, geraniums.**

**All parts of these plants
have the potential to be
toxic. Owners should
contact their vet at the
first sign of any
poisoning.**





The twinkle story ...

It began in Feb 2006, after a year of mourning our previous cat, "essy", as a family we decided to get another cat. I asked my 5 year old son what type of cat he would like and he replied "I'd like a white fluffy cat called Twinkle".

Pretty specific I thought , so I said "I'll try, but no promises as that's a pretty tall order".

"But mummy, I've always dreamed of a white fluffy cat called twinkle".

So tall order in hand, I go looking, first to the RSPCA in Bath, then we visited the Bristol Dogs Home. No Luck! Then, I remembered my days as a nurse at Barrow Hospital. I was sure that there was an animal sanctuary nearby, I asked my friend who had adopted 2 kittens from Holly hedge 10 years ago. She told me you were still there, so we decided to visit. We found there were plenty of cats, dogs and even a rabbit was hopping around.

The day I visited- there was only 1 little kitty who caught my eye, a beautiful silver tabby called "Arnie". As lovely as he was he wasn't white or fluffy!!!

So as a long shot I cheekily asked "do you have any white cats in isolation or due in?"

Well, before I could say any more, the reply was "yes, actually there is a little white male, currently visiting the vet for that all important snip job, but he is already reserved"

"What's his name? I asked

the reply was "He is called twinkle"

"Twinkle "...I said, I just have to see him and arranged a visit for the very next day.

The first day we met Twinkle, he was so sweet, he jumped onto my back and then over to my son and purred in his arms. We just knew he was the one for us. Luckily, the reserve on him fell though and after the home visit had been approved he was ours. He has now been with us for nearly a year and is the loveliest cat we could ever have wished for.

Every morning he tries to drink the milk from the cereal bowls. He goes out for about an hour in the morning then comes for cuddles with me in the afternoon. During the evenings he is off out looking for mice again. The neighbours already know him and ask after him.

Even when the house is filled with 5 year olds, Twinkle is still around. Star of the show. He seems to love the attention from children more than any other cat I've known. he is also the greatest company for my boy. Every night as my son goes to bed Twinkle bounds up the stairs, creeps quietly under his bed and waits...till he is asleep and then comes down to me for a cuddle.

Well all I can say is ...

Twinkle twinkle little star. Every day you make our lives brighter, just by being who you are. Gorgeous.

Please keep up the good work that you all do there. Thanks again to all at Holly Hedge.

You made a little boys dream come true.

Love and best wishes

The Hemments

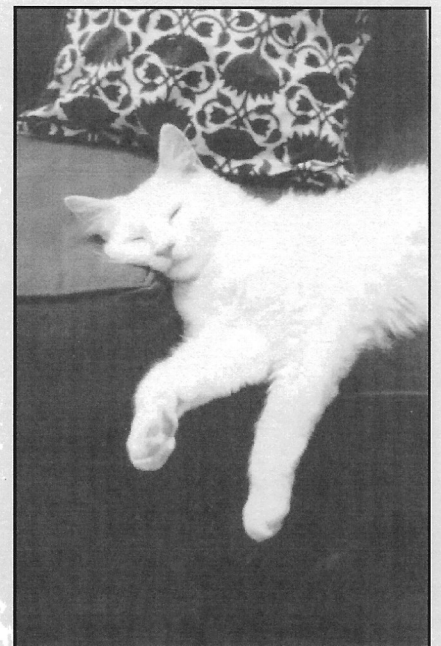
Twinkle - a little star

This lovely boy wandered into a garden looking for food and shelter on a cold winter's day in February. Thankfully he went to the right house and wasn't shooed away.

Unfortunately the people didn't want to take on a cat so he was brought to Holly Hedge, but at least they took the trouble to help him. On arrival he was found to be crawling with fleas so his first impression of Holly Hedge was to be taken to the medical room, sprayed with Frontline and given a worming tablet.

Twinkle, as we named him, didn't seem at all put out and seemed glad to be in a warm cattery with room service. He was about 8 months old and unneutered, so the next indignity, a week later, was a trip to the Vets to have his bits removed.

All spruced up, fully vaccinated, micro-chipped, neutered and looking irresistible, he was soon chosen and judging by his photos, Twinkle really appreciates his home comforts.



A Day in the life of kennel Staff at Holly Hedge

We work very hard, come scorching sun, icy winter mornings or torrential rain. We can be baking hot, freezing cold and often wet and very muddy, but it is a job we love because it is challenging, varied and most importantly, involves **DOGS!** Obviously the best bit is seeing them off to wonderful new lives with lovely new owners, but spending our time with the dogs whilst they are in our care and keeping them as happy as possible is also very rewarding. So you are thinking it's a marvellous job where we just walk, play with and cuddle dogs all day? It is but there is also a bit more to it.

8.15am Bright-eyed and eager, we start work. All the dogs are taken in turn to the exercise paddocks to stretch their legs and 'do their business'. Meanwhile someone else makes the dogs their breakfasts and administers any medications.

9.00am Cleaning- starting with the inside 'bedroom area' the kennels are cleaned, bedding is checked and changed as necessary: beds are lifted out of the way and the kennels are power-hosed, scrubbed, dried and disinfected. Beds are replaced and clean water bowls filled. The same routine is applied to the outside 'run' of the kennels and paths and drains hosed down.

10.am Now everything is clean and sparkling the real business of the day can begin! Generally there are three people working on the kennel block; one person is allocated to 'kitchen duties' and is responsible for feeding the dogs, washing up, grooming, some training and any other jobs that need doing such as, checking over new arrivals, writing signs, bathing dogs, worming, de-fleaing and much, much more!

The other two people will be on 'exercise duties' and will work together to ensure all the dogs get quality playtime in the exercise paddocks. Dogs who don't like to play are taken on a walk through the woods instead. Extra time is spent with long-term dogs, giving extra playtime, walks, training or socialisation if needed. All three members of staff are on the lookout for any volunteers or members of the public that need assistance.

Noon Whilst the dogs eat their lunch, we top up their water bowls and do 'poo patrol' in the exercise paddocks. Any dogs not eating well are hand-fed. Food bowls are collected and washed.

12.30pm All staff take turns for an hours lunch break and this way the dogs get more attention and there is always someone around to help the public.

2.30pm Everyone is back from lunch re-energised and so this is a great time to try some dogs together to find them new friends. Usually we take the dogs for a short walk to see how they get on. If they seem compatible we try them 'off lead'. This time can also be used to train the long-term dogs. Some of these dogs need socialising with other dogs or with people and some need lead or re-call training.

3.30pm We put all dogs out in the exercise paddocks for a quick 'wee'. Squeaky toys and tennis balls are collected, as they could be dangerous if a dog chews one up overnight whilst unattended. The dogs are given their tea, any medicines administered and water bowls topped up. Evening feeds are prepared in advance for any underweight dogs or puppies. Food bowls washed and frozen meats thawed overnight for cooking the next day. Any time left is spent doing the laundry or general tidying, or perhaps just to sit quietly with the dogs in their kennels and give them individual attention.

5.00pm Tired but happy we all head home! Then the dogs rest until 7.00pm - when the Lock-up staff come in for two hours to see to their needs before tucking them in for the night.

P.S. This describes a very typical day but in reality there are many possible variations. For example, a new dog arrives who is very nervous; the dogs may get a stomach bug or worse still, kennel cough; we are very busy with the public, especially at weekends; we have to catch an injured deer or a heron etc, etc, etc.... there's never a dull moment.



Two forthcoming events to raise funds for our much needed new kennel block
Sunday 3 June 2007 - Ashton Court - Fun Day and Novelty Dog Show
Sunday 23 September 2007 - Ashton Court - Sponsored Dog Walk



Friends for Life

Beau aged 11 years & Ellie aged 3 years

These inseparable friends have been through a few upheavals together. Their original owners working hours changed which meant they were left outside in the garden for long hours during the day, plus they didn't have time for the dogs. When they came to Holly Hedge it was apparent Ellie doted on Beau and became distressed if they weren't walked at the same time. When Beau had to go to the vet a few days later to be shaved off as he was so badly matted, and have most of his teeth removed as they were so rotten, Ellie couldn't settle without him. She cried and moped, just waiting for him to come back. We knew it would be hard to find people who were prepared to take on two big dogs especially as Ellie was quite needy and poor old Beau had arthritis, but to our relief 10 weeks later they were chosen to be part of a family. We were so pleased for them, but unfortunately luck was not on their side. Just six months on, back they came due to the owners' relationship breaking up. It was very upsetting for all concerned, especially the poor dogs as they had done nothing wrong. They had enjoyed a cosy home environment where they had been much loved and were now in a kennel situation again - fate had dealt them a bitter blow. How long would they have to wait the 2nd time around? Thankfully it was after just five weeks when Ruth and Paul saw them and fell in love with Beau's gentlemanly charms and Ellie's shy, but impish nature. As you can see by the photo these are two contented happy dogs.

Thank you Ruth and Paul for giving them such a lovely home.

We had been thinking about getting a dog for a while and, last summer finally felt the time was right as I would not be returning to full-time work. So I went to visit Holly Hedge, with no particular type of dog in mind, but was really only looking for one. That said, I had talked about rehoming a younger dog and an older dog as I always worry that older dogs will not find a home.

I instantly fell in love with Ellie, a 2 year old Lurcher X. She has very appealing eyes which seemed to be saying "choose me". I was surprised to discover that ideally she should be rehomed with Beau, a Lurcher X Wolfhound as she depended so much on him, so I went home to think about it and discuss it with my partner Paul

The more I thought about it the more I thought it was a fantastic idea. I persuaded Paul of this and took him to visit them. He immediately fell in love with Beau, and that was that- they had to come and live with us.

That was last June, and since then they have both settled into our home, and village, beautifully. Everybody knows them and loves them. They're both so friendly and affectionate - Ellie has been very affectionate all along, and Beau has become much more so since he has had time to settle in, they are such good company.

Both Paul and I feel that bringing them to our home was one of the best things we have ever done, and we are grateful to Holly Hedge for the advice and support they gave us.

Ruth and Paul

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

To all our volunteers who give their time so willingly; Dog walkers, cat cuddlers, home-checkers and foster homes, you all make such a wonderful contribution, and not forgetting the kind people who donate carpet off-cuts to make our rescues stay more 'homely'. Thanks also to everyone who has sent us money to carry on our worthwhile work; we really appreciate your help and generosity.

To the following supermarkets who kindly allowed us to collect donations of pet food and money throughout the year. Also to the Pet Shops that collect food. This has helped the Charity enormously and we are so grateful to each and every one of you:-

NICKI DUNN - Asda Patchway

STEVE NUTE & CHRIS THOMPSON - Sainsbury's, Stoke Gifford

BRENDA WRIGHT - Asda, Bedminster

MAL HUCKER - Co-op, Portishead

JULES GILLARD - Sainsbury's, Emerson Green

JOHN BRAND - Tesco, Bradley Stoke

Also thanks to **CHRIS NUTTALL** of Iceland, Portishead who has raised money from customers at the branch, by making them aware of our Charity and the work we do at Holly Hedge.

Pet Shops

PETS AT HOME - Eastgate

POSH PETS - Clifton

AARON'S PETS - Nailsea

JOLLEY'S PETFOOD - Longwell Green

RHM FOODS - who collect pet food and many others including individuals who are just as important and invaluable to help us in our ceaseless on-going work at Holly Hedge.

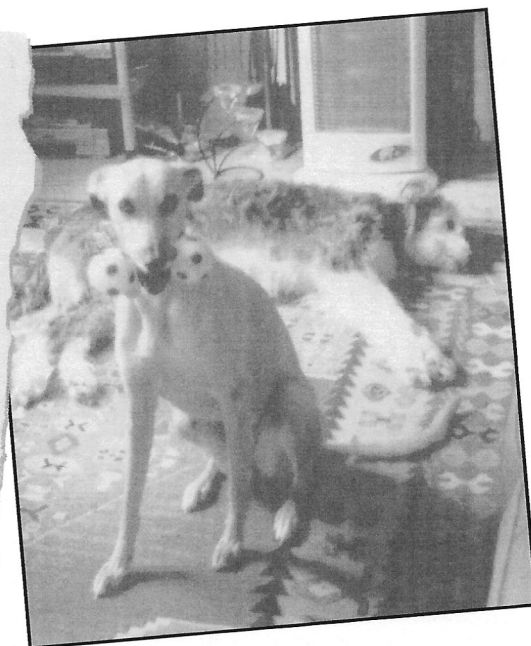
We are extremely lucky that our volunteer **BARBARA** is such an excellent seamstress because Holly Hedge greatly benefits from her skills. The super cats' and dogs' beds which she donates in order to boost our funds are extremely popular and in great demand. Not only does Barbara make these beds to a high standard, she purchases all materials at her own expense. Although working quietly behind the scenes, Barbara makes a big difference to our work at the Sanctuary through her tireless efforts and we really appreciate all her work. All our 4-legged friends give their seal of approval too!

SANDY and DAVID BAILEY are two of our longstanding volunteers who regularly come to Holly Hedge to take some of our more 'unsocialised' dogs out and about to meet people and other dogs. This has made a big improvement to their demeanour and has enabled us to rehome dogs that need that 'little bit extra' rehabilitation. We are so fortunate they have such an infinity with even the most 'awkward' of dogs, and that they care enough to give up so much of their time to help them.

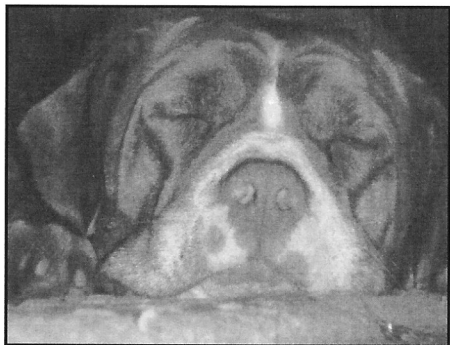
Thanks to **CHERRY** for her exquisite hand-made cards. Comments are always being made from the public who see these beautiful cards. They are sold at a fraction of the cost of similar cards in shops and really go well - the proceeds of which go towards the running costs of the Sanctuary.

OUR JU! What can we say about our Julie? Dedicated volunteer, foster carer, tamer of feral kittens, and makes great jewelry and merchandise to boost our funds (with the help of her long suffering husband Dave). She has a heart of gold and nothing is too much trouble to help animals in need. We could go on extolling her virtues but it would only embarrass her. Thanks for being such a good friend to our rescues Julie, it is truly appreciated.

Our grateful thanks to **TANIA TABER**, Graphic Designer for the design and layout of this newsletter, in spite of the fact she was in the middle of moving house (and me being late completing it). Tania has done a brilliant job - again! We really appreciate all her valuable help and expertise. *If we've forgotten anyone please accept our sincere apologies.*



Dreams really do come true!



Flame

Flame came to us along with her seven week old puppies; she had already had several homes, all of which had used her as a breeding machine. She had had 11 puppies in her last litter, but only four came with her to Holly Hedge (the rest were sold at only five weeks old, and we can only hope they went to caring owners and didn't fall into the wrong hands).

Our hearts went out to this sweet-natured, placid girl. We had never seen teats that dragged on the ground before; they were red, lacerated and sore and she had great difficulty walking. Flame, underweight and worn out, was a sorry sight indeed: having a litter every season had taken its toll. Her poor, tired body also had bald

patches all over due to a flea allergy.

She needed lots of TLC and nourishment. Eventually her milk dried up, and we were able to have her spayed. Flame would never have to struggle to bring up puppies again; she'd worked hard enough. Having found caring, responsible owners for the pups, it was now their mum's turn. Her teats still almost reached the ground, and the vet advised that she may need surgery to make her more comfortable if they didn't recede. It wasn't a pretty sight, but as Flame was the most gentle, loving girl, surely some one would want her for her many attributes, despite the fact that her under-carriage swung like eight pendulums when she moved. Her sweet face and lovely soft eyes were so appealing, she tugged at the heartstrings.

Seven weeks later Flame was chosen by a family, who saw her for the beautiful dog that she is! We explained that the Sanctuary would honour the cost of surgery if necessary, but luckily her teats slowly receded, and she is now much more comfortable and far more mobile. Happily settled in her new home, contentment is written all over her face.

Thanks to Viv Hunter and family for giving her the chance she deserves.

Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder.

We had all been very upset after the death of the family dog last May and by November felt that the time had come to think about adopting a new dog (with a lot of heavy hints dropped by my three children). A friend had told us about Holly Hedge, so finally we arrived at the kennels to see what was available.

Of course we stopped for ages at nearly every kennel as each dog was so appealing. We had to reject any which would not get on with cats or children. We saw a bitch called Flame and asked a kennel hand if she would be alright with cats. Staff walked her round the cattery and we were told she hadn't reacted at all to the cats and so things were looking good. The children immediately tppk to Flame, so next she had to come and visit our home and be tested with our cats. She intrigued the cats, but all remained calm - Flame had passed the 'cat test'. Three days later Flame was home with us and settling into her new and caring home.

So why is Flame' story so special? She was a sorry sight when we first saw her in the kennels and staff didn't think any-one would want to take her in her current state, but we didn't mind that her breast tissue was virtually hanging on the ground due to producing litter after litter of puppies. Flame is a lovely, gentle, cuddly Mastiff X that is now loved and cared for. Over the last 8 months her breast tissue has gradually returned to a more normal position. She is such a wonderful part of our family - obedient, loyal and very loving, we are so grateful to Holly Hedge for rescuing her for us.

Roxy - rescued from death row

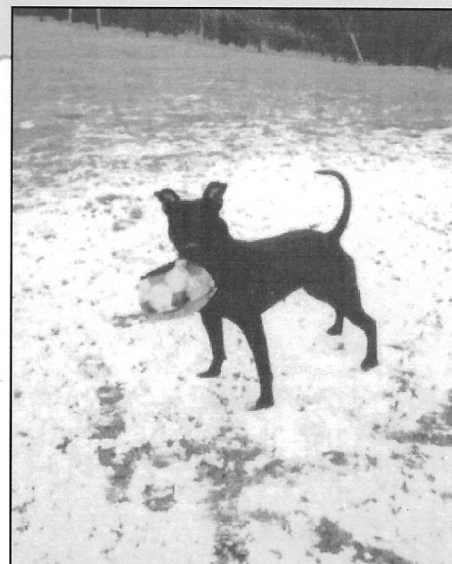
Roxy was found straying and ended up in a Dog Pound in Caerphilly. After 7 days and unclaimed she was heading for a one way trip to the vets. Thank goodness for H.O.P.E. Rescue who work so hard to prevent the Pound Dogs all over the country, from being destroyed, finding them reputable charities who take them in to be rehomed. Well, Roxy

came to Holly Hedge, a sweet bouncy girl, full of life and desperate to run off her excess energy after being confined in the Pound. She was a bit underweight and her skin was infected and scabby, but nothing a course of anti-biotics, good food and weekly baths wouldn't sort out. Once fully vaccinated (Hope Rescue gave her, her 1st inoculation) she was able to run to her hearts content in the large grass compounds, Roxy was a real fun loving dog who enjoyed playing ball games and was affectionate towards everyone. 11 Weeks later she was spotted by a very nice family who recently had to have their Staffie PTS due to old age. After the usual preliminaries Roxy went to her new home and has never looked back. Thanks to Julie and John for putting their faith in Roxy even though we had no background on her.

FOOTNOTE - Roxy is one of the lucky ones. Rescue Centres are full of Staffies pining their hearts out for loving homes. They are sadly much maligned and over bred. It needs to be said that there are too many unscrupulous breeders, both registered and back street who don't bother to vet homes or even care where there puppies go, or what conditions they will be kept in. In the right hands Staffies are wonderful animals whose only aim is to please. They hate being in kennels as they are such loyal, home-loving people dogs who love their home comforts. If only breeders would realise that Staffordshire Bull Terriers have become 'victims' of society.

We have had Roxy for well over a year now and she's so settled. We also have another dog Jed and they are great pals and have loads of fun together. Roxy never seems to run out of energy, no matter how bad the weather is she still wants to go out - and she's not a bit ladylike, she heads straight for the mud! The rest of Roxys extended family consists of 3 rabbits, 2 ferrets, 1 horse and 2 Shetland ponies, and she gets on well with all of them. Roxy also loves her home comforts - I don't really know why we have a dog bed when there's room on the sofa! But she is such a good girl and really affectionate. She has a home for life with us.

Love Julie, John & Roxy xx



Sponsored Walk & Dog Show held at Ashton Court on 24 September 2006

Unlike the Fun-Day in May 2006, the weather was good to us – not one drop of rain! Lots of ex-Holly Hedge dogs and many others besides walked with their owners to raise funds to build more comfortable kennels for our rescues whilst they wait to be re-homed. The novelty dog show was a huge success – this was judged by Jeannette Crossman of Castle Court Dog Training School who did a great job for what was not an easy task, as there were so many worthy dogs and I am sure we all agree that everyone was a winner – Our grateful thanks to Jeannette!

The best part was seeing so many of our ex-rescues again, all of them looking happy and enjoying themselves – a real tonic to see.

Here's to the next one to be held on **23 September 2007** at Ashton Court.

We made a grand profit of £5116 which was brilliant and our thanks go to all our fund raisers who worked so hard to make the day such a huge success.

The line-dancing dogs got everyone's feet tapping to the music, as they sashayed around the ring with their owners, obviously enjoying the attention and not putting a paw wrong!

If anyone would like to become part of our fund-raising team, please ring Holly Hedge or Gerry on 0117 969 5332 – or better still, come to our next meeting in the skittle alley at the Anchor Inn, Pill on 21 January 2007 at 7.15p.m. All new faces welcome.



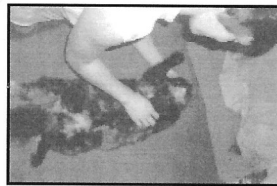
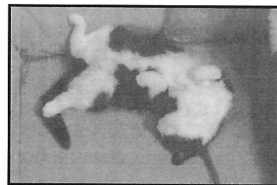
Foster homes

Foster homes urgently needed for elderly cats and dogs.

A kennel or cattery is no place for any animal to end its days.

No matter how much we care for them it's no substitute for a real home, with lots of individual attention. If you can offer a 'Golden Oldie' a loving home for whatever time they have left – which could be years, Holly Hedge will honour all age related vet bills.

Please come in and meet our senior citizens – you will be welcomed with open paws and purrs and woofs of delight.



The cats that came in from the cold

Tequila aged approx 2 years & Chico aged approx 6 years

We had a phone call from a member of the public very concerned about two cats who were living rough in hers and neighbouring gardens crying for food and wanting to go into the house for warmth. No-one could take them in and they were becoming increasingly distressed. They had been around for about a month but the weather was becoming colder and they had very little shelter from the elements. When they came to us they loved the warmth of the radiators and always waited eagerly at the cattery door when they heard the food trolley coming round with their 'meals on wheels'. Another devoted pair so they had to be rehomed together. Almost four months later their long wait was over, and off they went to start a new life. They would never be deprived of home comforts or need to forage for food ever again thanks to Rachel and Simon.

Dear Holly Hedge Staff and Volunteers,

We've been meaning to write for ages with news and photos of Chico and Tequila. As you can see they've both settled in very nicely and are both very happy in their new surroundings. Chico can be a bit of a vandal at times and has completely destroyed the scratching post we bought for him. He's steadily become more and more friendly and soft, and no longer attacks our unprotected fleshy regions in an unprovoked manner! Tequila is still completely besotted by an alluring lap. She has an extremely amusing array of sounds (not really meows) and loves being tickled on the tummy. They both get on with each other fine, though Tequila has to show a lot of patience when Chico wants to play with her. We love them both very much and hope you'll be happy to know they're both well.

Yours faithfully

Simon & Rachel



We want happy endings too

We're on the web!
www.hollyhedge.org.uk

Lots of adorable cats and dogs patiently waiting for caring, loving homes.

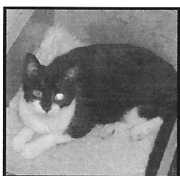
MUM age 14 years & TASH age 13 years



Due to a change of circumstances these golden oldies found themselves homeless. At their age being in a cattery for the first time was a shock to their system and they were

upset and bewildered. Shy but friendly mother and daughter are looking for a happy retirement in a quiet loving environment. All they hope for is to be loved and wanted once more – and soon please, time is running out as age is not on their side.

JESSIE age 12



Sadly Jessie's owner passed away which left her in search of a new home. Despite her mature years she is young at heart. She loves her cuddles and is

always willing to climb upon your lap for a fuss. A friendly, loving old lady, her plaintive cries beg to be heard. She isn't getting any younger, please give her a chance of happiness.

PEACHES & PORTIA both age 3



Due to a relationship breakdown these adorable sisters are now looking for a fresh start in life. They have always been indoor cats, but really enjoy themselves exploring our large cat

garden. They would welcome the chance to get out and about and have the choice of lying in the sun and perhaps even climbing a tree. A fairly quiet home would suit this friendly pair.

SMOKEY aged 9



This country loving boy is with us because his owners moved to a busy area. Smokey was used to a quiet life in the countryside with very little traffic and couldn't

have coped with the hustle and bustle of busy suburbia. He is desperate for a rural environment where he will be safe away from

busy roads – a lap to sit on would be nice too as he loves his cuddles.

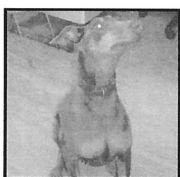
ASHLEIGH



This young female rabbit would love a garden to play in after being found on a busy road in town. A large hutch with an even larger run attached to it would be just what this

sweet girl needs – or better still, a nice cosy indoor home with access to the garden. Is she really asking too much? We believe no animal should be confined to a cage and if you're not in a position to have a dog or cat, rabbits make lovely pets. Come and see how lovely she is, you can't miss a rabbit in a cattery!

JADE Dobermann X age 10 Years



Our special girl Jade has the sweetest nature. Good as gold in our office, she deserves to be loved and cherished in a home of her own. She has a sweet and loving nature but no-one gives

her a second look. Is it because of her big funny ears? We think it adds to her character and makes her look quite unique. She would be so loyal if only given a chance.

MONTY Mastiff X age 1



Monty is so adorable, but sadly has been diagnosed with Hip Displacia. He is taken to Temple Cloud twice a week for Hydrotherapy to strengthen his muscles, and is doing brilliantly. He

may need an operation in the future but if so a 'Monty Fund' will be set up to pay for it. Thankfully Monty is progressing so well this may not be necessary. He is being such a good boy, in spite of his exercise being somewhat limited to little and often. Monty is a wonderful dog with a great personality who deserves the chance of a loving home where he can continue his progress in comfortable surroundings. Holly Hedge will honour any vet bills relating to his hips, including Hydrotherapy. If you can offer this brave boy a caring home please come and visit him, he would be so pleased to see you.

STORM Staffy X age 9



An affectionate boy who is with us as he couldn't cope with a very boisterous toddler. He has been an excellent family dog who enjoyed his home comforts and

playing with the older children. Normally happy go lucky he is depressed and pining in kennels just wanting to go back home where he was once loved and wanted. Storm is adorable and big as he is would sit on your lap given half a chance. Please come and see him, he may win your heart and be your faithful friend.

SMUDGE Scottie X age 3



Smudge a Scottie x may be short in stature but has a big personality. This little Scotsman would do somersaults if he could, just to attract attention. He couldn't ask any

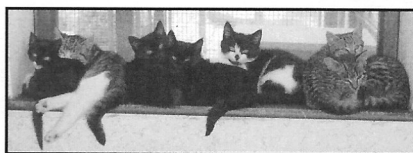
plainer for a home if he did the highland fling. A settled life, with caring owners would make his little tail wag with happiness. Just look at his mischievous little face

OLIVER age 7 years



Ollie is a very unhappy boy who used to be very spoilt in his previous home. So much so they didn't bother to give him any ground rules, and then decided they didn't want him. He was being

left for long hours and given no exercise which made him very frustrated. He got to the stage he would try and prevent them leaving the house as he didn't want to be on his own for so long. Instead of working on the problem, he's now looking for someone who can give this bewildered chap the time and basic training he needs. He has shown us what a lovely boy he can be, please give him the opportunity to prove he's got the makings of a loyal and loving companion.



Kittens waiting to be chosen

These dear little mites have only known love and kindness at Holly Hedge. We endeavour to ensure that this will continue throughout their lives.

