



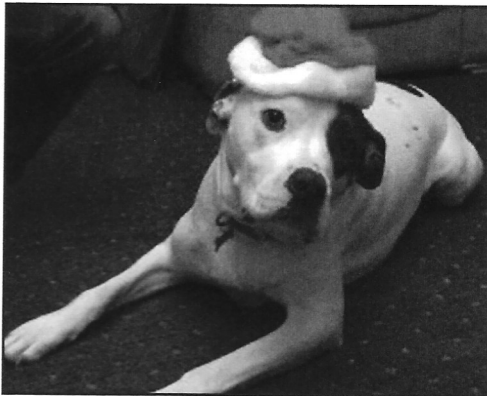
# HOLLY HEDGE

# Newsletter

CHRISTMAS 2007 ISSUE



Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future



## Monty

Monty arrived at Holly Hedge when he was 7 weeks old, along with his whole family, mum, dad and two brothers. They were all Mastiff X's with the sweetest natures. Monty was only with us for twelve days when he was chosen to be part of a family with another Holly Hedge dog.

Everything was going well, then 8 months later, Monty began having problems after he came back from walks, he seemed stiff and sore, and also had trouble getting up after resting. He was X-rayed and it was bad news, Monty had hip dysplasia and the prognosis was that he would probably need hip replacements when he had fully matured. He was prescribed drugs to keep him pain free and walks were restricted to on lead only, quite a tall order for a young, lively dog. Luckily his owners had Monty insured from a puppy so vet fees wouldn't be a problem.

Then tragedy hit the family when the man of the house was involved in a serious accident, which meant he would be in hospital for at least six months. It was a devastating time for them all, and they weren't able to give Monty the attention he needed. It was with heavy hearts they brought him back to us. Monty was now 11 months old, and still couldn't have much exercise. Unfortunately the insurance could not be passed on to Holly Hedge, so it was now up to us to do whatever was necessary to get him up and running. Besides his pain killers, Monty was put on glucosamine and chondroitin to help his joints. Vicky, our visiting vet advised that Hydrotherapy might help. We contacted Amberco who had done such a good job with Skipper, (who is still alive and kicking, and even goes out for walks without his truck sometimes) and after liaising with Vale Vets, about his condition, they thought Hydrotherapy would benefit Monty by building muscle round his hips to support his joints. Amberco also gave a discount as they did with Skipper, because we are a charity. Monty had his Hydro twice a week and we could see an improvement in his gait and how much better he was walking. It would take months of this to obtain maximum results, but it was worth it to see how well he was doing.

We tried so hard to get him out of the kennels and into a home as we felt he would progress even further in a home environment, but most people didn't want to take on a dog with the possibility of major operations when he was older, although Holly Hedge would have found the money from somewhere. We tried to make him as comfortable as possible by carpeting his kennel and giving him thick duvets to lie on. This brave, friendly boy never complained, and accepted the rough with the smooth. Everybody loved him and staff made sure he had extra attention, but he was so desperate for a real home.

We watched Monty improve dramatically, then we had good news, he could have more exercise as he was doing so well. We couldn't believe the difference Hydrotherapy had made, he no longer swayed when he walked and his muscle tone was almost normal. When the vet saw him again she was amazed at his progress, and even thought he may not need his hips operated on after all. Even more good news when Rob of Amberco told us Monty didn't need any more sessions as he was so much better.

It was almost nine months since he had come back to us and still he wasn't chosen, although we had advertised him time and time again, and even told his story in the press. It was a dream come true when Michael and Claire came to the Sanctuary looking for a dog and saw Monty. It was love at first sight, and they wanted him whether or not he would need operations in the future. We were overjoyed and emotional when we waved him off to start a new life. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts Michael and Claire, for giving Monty the loving home he richly deserves.

I thought I would write to let you know how I am getting on. I like my new mum and dad because they spoil me!!!! I have also made lots of new friends and go round to the neighbours for biscuits (ginger nuts are a great favourite). I have lots of toys bought for me and have enjoyed chewing them all!!!! We have some lovely walks and I still love to find big sticks to bring home. I like going to the beach, but I don't like the rain so my mum and dad have bought me a raincoat. I wear it to humour them but I think it looks daft!

I was in the car the other day and managed to set off the alarm, locking the doors with me inside it. The RAC came to the rescue.

I will have such a good Christmas this year. I open my advent calendar every morning and have a doggy choc. Santa will be bringing me a stocking full of goodies and I am sure there will be a roast dinner or two. I hope all my friends at Holly Hedge are well.

Regards and Yappy Christmas to you all.

Love Monty

Monty's owner manages to get a few words in: Monty is doing really well - he is a very spoiled boy and loves his cuddles and kisses. We love having him in the family.



# Chief Executive's Report

It is hard to believe Christmas is almost here again, this year has gone by so quickly. As usual we are full to capacity and bursting at the seams. As I write this, two Staffie x's we took in just over a week ago, both heavily pregnant and due to be destroyed in the dog pound have given birth to 13 puppies between them. When I think of all the breeders advertising puppies for Christmas they have deliberately bred, and don't care where they end up because they are just 'commodities' and a means to an end, it is so disconcerting. If the demand is not forthcoming, the supply would not be needed. Please don't encourage breeders to carry on exploiting defenceless animals, and that includes caged and exotic species. I'm sure we are preaching to the converted here, but perhaps there are people you know who are not so enlightened. It would appear there are no principles where money is concerned. In comparison, our little pups will get the best possible chance of being loved and cared for, they are priceless to us!

Staff cope admirably with the extra work surrounding the festive season and never complain about working over the Christmas period. They enjoy dishing up our rescues special Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and bend over backwards to make up for them not being in a home of their own. Visitors to the Sanctuary bring lots of nice treats and toys so all the animals have presents, and cat cuddlers and dog walkers come in on Christmas Day and Boxing Day to give them extra attention. One thing is for sure, they may not have homes of their own yet, but they know they are loved and wanted by every-one at Holly Hedge, and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. So far this year we have rehomed 256 dogs, 210 cats, 8 rabbits, 4 guinea pigs and 1 Egyptian tortoise. Luckily some of our long term dogs have found new homes, such as Irene, Honey, Jade, Charlie, Jess, Lola, Nemo, Greta, Monty, Bryn, and Banjo and Drummer. Likewise cats, Charlie, Teddy, Madeleine, Lou, Kerry and Mum and Tash are all now in loving homes.

We have had lots of nice comments from public regarding our new logo and are still getting good write-ups in our visitors book. We seem to be in more demand than ever to give talks to Schools and other groups, some of which have visited to see the work we carry out.

It has been an excellent year for fund-raising, and our brilliant team have surpassed all our expectations. They have now raised £110,000 towards our new kennel block and they're still going strong. Never before in the history of the Charity has so much money been raised for a specific project, and we are all so proud of what they have achieved. Gerry Watkins is the driving force behind our fantastic team, she spends numerous hours behind the scenes writing letters, organising events, and co-ordinating every-one and every-thing, and spends much of her weekends out there fund-raising with them. The team are out in all winds and weathers, giving up their leisure time to help our rescues, and they don't mind dressing up in dog and cat outfits to attract attention. As well as raising money they are helping to raise the profile of the Sanctuary and have generated more public interest and awareness of our work. That, along with our web site is bringing in more visitors and putting us well and truly on the map. Plans for the new kennels should be with us in the New Year and we hope to commence building work some time in 2008. Holly Hedge is a far cry from when I ran the Charity from home - so much has been achieved and many more animals have found loving homes.

We continue to endeavour to give all our rescues happy endings, but we couldn't do it without the help and support of our volunteers, and that includes every-one involved with Holly Hedge in whatever capacity. Thank you so much, you are all worth your weight in gold. **Pauline Leeson**

## Wishing you all a Very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**PS I will be taking a break from writing the newsletter for a while and handing it over to our very capable staff. I will still write my yearly report at Christmas but I feel it's time for a fresh approach whilst I recharge my batteries.**

# Thank you to:

- **Barbara**, for continuing to make beautiful dog and cat beds for us to sell, and cutting up and sewing duvets for our rescues comfort. She didn't stop even when she broke her ankle, that's what we call commitment. Thank you for everything Barbara.
- **Cherry**, for making exquisite hand made cards to boost our funds.
- **Shaun** for running the Bath Half Marathon raising £322.50.
- **Terry and Barbara** for their continued support.
- **Pet Shops – Jolleys - Longwell Green, Aarons Pets - Nailsea and Clevedon, and Posh Pets - Clifton**, for collecting pet food for Holly Hedge all the year round.
- **Pets at Home – Eastgate, Filton and Brislington** for making us their 'Nominated Charity of the Year', and for allowing us to collect pet food and donations of money throughout the year.
- **Sainsburys, Tesco's, Morrisons, Asda and Co-Op** for allowing us to collect dog and cat food, plus donations of money.
- The **Kranczenko** family – from the Carpet Fitters shop for supplying our rescues with carpet pieces throughout the year to make their kennels and catteries cosier.
- **Dave (Techie) Yerbury** for helping us out on numerous occasions with our computer problems.
- **Mr Deans** for making us a beautiful wishing well and bird table.
- All the **children** who saved up their **pocket money** to help our rescues, and all the kind people who donate gifts and money for the day to day running of the Sanctuary.
- All the wonderful **people** who have **adopted our animals** and given them 'Happy Endings'.
- **Kay** for donating £3000.00 towards our new kennels.
- All our **fund-raisers, home-checkers, dog walkers, cat cuddlers, foster homes**, and all our **dedicated staff** – we wouldn't be such a happy 'half-way house' without you.
- A huge thank you to **Tania Taber**, Graphic Designer for the design and layout of yet another newsletter. Although she has moved to Normandy in France, Tania is still doing the honours for us, and we really appreciate all her help and expertise. Thank goodness for E-mail!
- **Warmley Tower Post Office** for their continued support.
- If I have forgotten anyone my sincere apologies, it really isn't intentional. We are so appreciative of any help given to us. **Thank You.**



## Luigi aged 2 years – Saved by the vet

Luigi came to us after his owners had taken him to the vet to be put to sleep. They had bought a new puppy and the poor cat became very stressed and couldn't cope with the new arrival. His anxiety caused him to act out of character and he started fighting with the other cats in the house. Apparently Luigi also turned on his owner and one of the children, so he was taken for a one way trip to the vet. Thank goodness the vet was compassionate and advised that he could be found a home with no other animals, hence his arrival at Holly Hedge. We found him to be a friendly, affectionate cat who loved everybody; there was no malice in him at all. Two weeks later Sue and Andrew came looking for a feline companion and knew Luigi was the cat for them, he would be their only pet and doted upon. Thanks to the vet who saved his life, he has a great future ahead of him.



Luigi had spent just a couple of weeks at Holly Hedge before we saw him on the website. He was incredibly friendly when we called in to see him and seemed quite calm and confident.

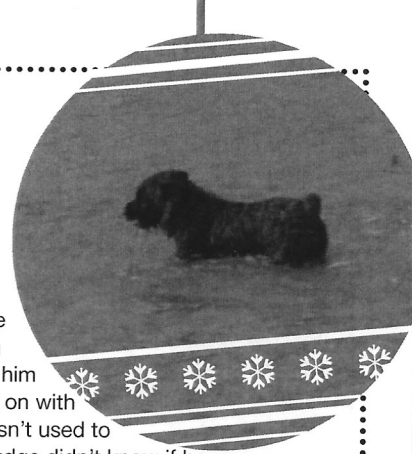
Once we got him home, as you can see, Luigi lost no time in finding the comfiest spots in the house! He loves to be with us and follows us around like a dog. He chirrups and squeaks and purrs all the time. Unlike other cats we have had, he never runs away when we have visitors and is quite happy to be stroked and fussed – he is quite indiscriminate really!

We wouldn't be without him.

## Smudge, 3 year old Scottie X

### A little character with a big personality

Smudge had 2 homes before he came to Holly Hedge. The first home gave him to a neighbour as he was fighting with the other male dogs in the house. The neighbour only had him 2 weeks but couldn't keep him due to Smudge not getting on with the two children. He was fine with the 4 older ones but wasn't used to so much activity and noise in a busy household. Poor Smudge didn't know if he was coming or going when he came to us, and was extremely bewildered and unsettled. His coat was very shaggy and matted, and we soon discovered why – he hated being groomed. He was also quite scared of people he didn't know, and showed it by pretending to be fierce and ferocious. His main problem was underconfidence but staff soon won him over, and he learned to love and trust his carers. Unfortunately, he showed his 'wary' side to public when any-one wanted to meet him which put most people off. It was eight and a half months later when he was chosen by a super couple who fell in love with his scruffy appearance and challenging behaviour. They realised underneath was a little dog desperate to be loved but had a funny way of showing it. The homecheck passed with flying colours, Smudge was going to a lovely new home. As he still wasn't keen on being groomed we had his coat sheered off at the vets under anaesthetic; at least his new owners wouldn't have to struggle with his grooming until he knew them well. So off he went all spruced up, and hasn't looked back. Smudge even wrote us a letter telling us all about his new life and what a happy boy he is. Thank you so much Barbara and Heneage for seeing the loveable little character behind the façade.



I spent some time at Holly Hedge Sanctuary and although I was very popular with the staff and enjoyed my walks in the woods, I was very pleased when Barbara saw my photo on the internet and came in especially to see me as she was looking for an adorable scruffy mutt, which I am. My new human friends came to collect me in July and, as a bonus, I gained another new friend. She is a very elegant Belgian Shepherd known as Shadow and she welcomed me into her home and showed me around the large garden where we can play. When I was at Holly Hedge, I was very nervous of being groomed but I have now gained much more confidence and am happy to allow Barbara to brush my coat.

Barbara is a gardener so when she goes out to work in various gardens I enjoy going with her in the van. I have learnt that if she gets out and leaves the key in the ignition for a few minutes, that I can jump on the central locking catch and lock her out. This is quite an interesting game but she has learnt to take a spare key so the fun element has gone out of it somewhat. Never mind, I might catch her one day, preferably when it isn't sunny, as she would not appreciate having to break the window to get me out. I'm actually the gardening supervisor and like to lie and watch the work being carried out. Digging is not one of my favourite activities although I understand humans do not always like dogs helping to dig the flowerbeds regardless of all the plants looking the same. Humans are very fussy about these things so I am on my best behaviour at work.

This autumn, Shadow and I were taken to Cornwall for a holiday. I really enjoyed the sea and love swimming. I have very big feet to use as paddles! A photo of me in the sea is enclosed. Shadow prefers running to swimming but I usually just watch her run round in circles for a bit, then I go back to relaxing. Shadow is a bit flighty but I am a much more laid back type of dog – no point in using more energy than necessary.

My humans are pleased with me – brilliant is the word they use, as I fit into their lifestyle perfectly and feel secure in my new home. Obviously I was a little worried at first as I did not know whether I was staying for good but I have been here four months now. When my Holly Hedge friends called to visit I was very pleased to see them and showed them how happy and relaxed I am in my new home. The humans, Shadow and I are now one very happy family.

I still remember my dog friends at Holly Hedge and if you are able to consider taking one of them to share your home, then maybe they will be able to write their own happy story.

Love and a Happy New Year  
From Smudge



## Bobby aged approx 6 years and Kiwi aged 18 months

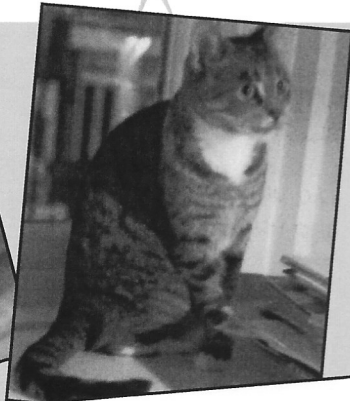
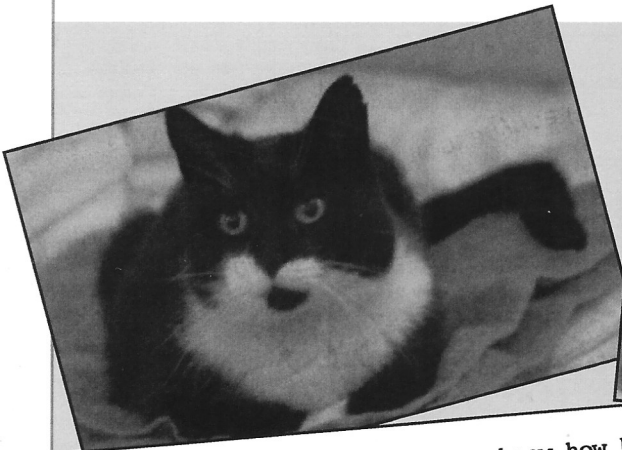
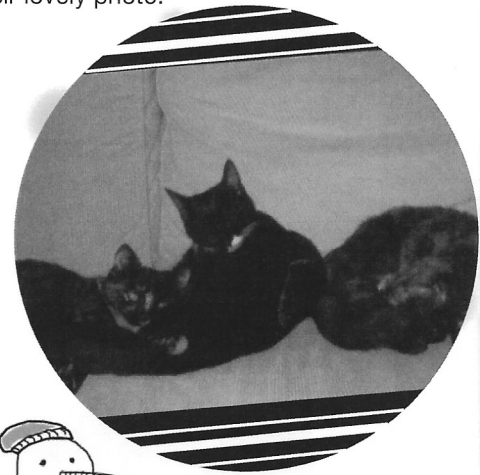
Bobby's owner sadly passed away and once again he was homeless. He was a stray before the kindly gentleman took him in and gave him a home, now he had no-one again. Luckily the family knew how much his old owner cared for him and contacted the Sanctuary. We took him in the same day, a confused little cat whose world had been turned upside down. Bobby accepted his new surroundings and became very fond of his carers. Emma, one of our Wardens, noticed he was a bit wobbly on one of his back legs so the vet. examined him and advised an X-ray. This showed up an old injury which couldn't be rectified, except to give painkillers and a vitamin supplement. This combination worked well and Bobby was much happier, although he would always be a little weak on his left leg. Lots of public took an interest in him, but no-one reserved him because of this, and the fact he needed medication - which Holly Hedge offered to pay for. Poor Bobby had been with us for 10 months. Then Natalie and Chris visited the Sanctuary to see a little cat called Kiwi.

Kiwi had been with us for 6 weeks because her owner moved into rented accommodation, and pets weren't allowed. She was a very sweet little cat but when she had enough of being made a fuss of would let you know by giving a gentle swipe with her paw.

Natalie and Chris thought she was so beautiful and had character, Kiki was definitely the cat for them. They had also seen Bobby on our web site and wanted to meet him too. We were overjoyed when they wanted to adopt him as well as Kiwi. It didn't matter that he was slightly lame - and were more than happy to pay for his ongoing medication, which was so nice of them. Thank you both for making two Holly Hedge cats very happy.

## Harris, Fiona and Sian

These three little bundles were found huddled together by a builder who was renovating a house. They were only 8 weeks old and their mother was nowhere to be seen. We took them in straight away and found them to be friendly, loving little kittens. They did come with a few unwanted hosts but that was soon rectified. We never did find their mum, but the little mites found a new family who didn't want to see them split up as they were so close. It isn't always the case that two's a company, three's none as you can see in their lovely photo.



We wanted to write to let you know how happy and settled we are in our new home. Although it took us a while to get used to each other we are happy and stay very close to home. Although we go outside now and again to look at the squirrels and birds we don't venture far at all. Bobby's legs aren't too bad either. He is now on a daily nutrient called Seraqium which he seems to gobble down very happily. It helps with lubrication of the joints and has no side effects. Kiwi acts like she has been here forever. Always wanting to play any time of the day:

### KIWI WOULD LIKE A WORD HERSELF

At night we are allowed on our owner's bed and love to be all settled together. Bobby will use that time to play, often by chasing his tail around and around on the bed - it's a funny site!

### BOBBY COMMENTS

We often get treats and go mad for milk. Kiwi would steel it away from anyone if she had her way. We also still love laps!

Thank you for looking after us when we were with you and all that you do at Holly Hedge. We love our new home and enjoy being thoroughly spoilt.

With much love

Bobby & Kiwi xxx



To everyone at Holly Hedge

Thank you all for helping our kittens find us. Harris, Fiona and Sian have now been renamed Spangle, Minstrel and Phoebe.

They have been with us about eight weeks now, and appear to be enjoying every minute of it. (Except the trips to the vets!)

They have a room full of cat toys but prefer playing with the empty cardboard boxes. They have some lovely blankets to sleep on but prefer the old towels from their

carrying boxes. They are being totally spoilt and still get freshly cooked fish at least every other day.

Their favourite hobbies are cuddling up in front of the television with the remote control and falling asleep.

We took them to the vets separately to get their operations done as we couldn't carry all three at once. We had no problems with the cats that were having the ops, it was the ones left at home who got upset. Spangle was left completely on his own and started scratching and biting which he hasn't done before or since luckily. We can see now that we were right to bring all three of them home.

Phoebe who we weren't originally going to take, has turned out to be a very loving affectionate cat and is the most likely to jump up on the sofa for a cuddle. My daughter originally christened her Freebie as we were only planning on two kittens and had only chosen two names. However when I went to the vets to register them, they misheard me and thought I said Phoebe which I think is a much better name so we stuck with it.

Anyway, I hope you like the photos and that you are able to help more kittens like ours spread love and joy into other homes. (Although my husband says not our home, we now officially have more than enough cats).

## Millie and Biscuit (mother and daughter)

Millie (left of photograph) was found straying not far from the Sanctuary on May 9th 2006. On checking her over we thought her tummy was rather 'rotund', and we realised she was pregnant. This was confirmed when the vet. examined her, and it was thought she had approximately 1 week to go before she gave birth. Almost on time, 8 days later Millie produced 4 adorable little Lion-head baby rabbits. She was such a proud Mum and loved showing them off. It was a blessing they weren't born in the wild or they may not have survived. Millie was able to bring up her offspring in comfort and safety and they all thrived. We made sure Mum and babies were neutered before we found responsible owners for them. As Millie was such a good mum we thought it would be nice if she could be rehomed with one of her little ones. Two had already been placed together and baby number three was going to keep another guinea pig company. That left Biscuit to go to a new home with her mum. What a lucky pair to be chosen as indoor rabbits, (with the use of the garden as well of course). They are thoroughly spoilt and as you can see by their lovely photograph, are more than happy with all the home comforts. If only all rabbits could end up so well looked after. We can't thank Mr. & Mrs. Molton enough for making them part of their family. Millie and Biscuit have a few words to say themselves:

Hi! Everyone at Holly Hedge,

We thought it was about time we wrote to tell you about how we are getting along in our new home. We really are just fine and love running around in all this space, although we will never forget all your kindness in looking after us and enjoyed our time with you all at Holly Hedge. I, myself, Millie feel much more confident now and, me and my baby Biscuit, who is such a big girl now, really rule the roost here. I hope you like the photo of us both, and although we say it ourselves we think we are rather pretty. Our mum and dad keep telling us we are and we really enjoy all the kisses and cuddles, it seems like we have been here forever. We have been told about the new kennel block that needs to be built for our canine friends and we know how lucky we were to be in the cattery when we stayed with you. We were pleased when our mum and dad said they were making a donation from us with our love. We hope you raise lots of money on your Fun Day and that everyone has a really good time.

Lots of love

Millie and Biscuit Molton

Mum and dad send their love too



## Banjo & Drummer aged approximately 4 and 8 years

These two sweet natured Labrador X's believed to be father and son, were taken into a dog pound when they were found straying, underweight and in poor condition. Their seven days were up in the pound, and as they weren't claimed were due to be destroyed. Luckily Hope Rescue intervened, a group dedicated to saving dogs on 'death row'. As they do not have their own kennels they enlist the help of reputable rescues to take these animals in, so Banjo and Drummer came to Holly Hedge. Poor Banjo was in quite a state, he had sores and bald patches all over his legs and in-between his toes. His nails were long and curled over making it uncomfortable for him to walk properly, and it was obvious there was something wrong with his right back leg as it seemed very stiff and it hurt when the vet. examined it. So it was a trip to Vale Vets. in Portishead for X-rays which showed arthritis in his hock and slight hip dysplasia. Banjo was prescribed pain killers along with glucosamine and chondroitin tablets for his joints which really helped him. He was even able to play chase games and run for the ball.

Drummer wasn't in too bad condition apart from he had overgrown nails and a broken tooth which was giving him some pain. Once he had the tooth removed and a scale and polish he obviously felt much better.

Both these lovely boys were so gentle and biddable they were great favourites of our volunteer dog walkers. The never pulled on their leads, were brilliant with other dogs, and were so friendly with every-one. The perfect pair if only we could find a home that wanted two dogs together. It would have been so unfair to split them up as they adored each other.

Six long months later their dreams came true when Mr. & Mrs. Davis and their two children saw an appeal for Banjo and Drummer and wanted to give them a home.

Their luck had at last changed for the better.

### Hello Banjo and Drummer here

Well we have been in our new home for 6 months now and it has certainly been a busy time for us. We settled in very quickly arriving on a lovely sunny day and lying in the garden all afternoon waiting for Jess and Jim to come home from school to see us.

We live close to the downs so go for lovely walks each day though we have to stay on the leads as there is so much traffic. Our favourite walks are at Blaise, Belmont Woods and Leigh Woods, we love running around following squirrel and deer scents and come home feeling very tired and happy.

We have done lots of new things too, we went to the seaside in the summer and loved paddling in the waves and after a while liked swimming too, we have 'cousins' who live in the countryside and when we visited them we went on a really long walk in the forest which had lots of new things to smell and chase.

We came to the Hollyhedge sponsored walk too and met lots of old friends which was great, people were so pleased to see us and it was good to see everyone looking so happy.

We enjoy chasing balls as long as we have one each and always have a good play when Jess and Jim come home after school.

By the time you read this we will have been to Cornwall too to stay in a cottage for the weekend and walk on the beach each day which we are very excited about, as long as it doesn't rain...walking in the rain is not much fun.

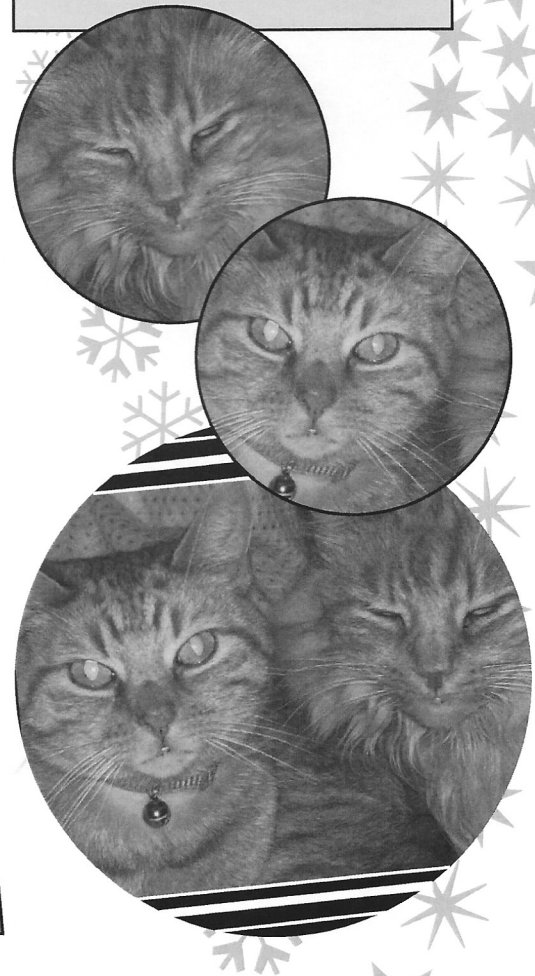
But the best thing of all is all the cuddles and hugs we get from everyone in the family, we love lying with our heads resting on someone's lap and just relaxing... it's a dogs life.

Lots of love and licks from Drummer and Banjo



## Charlie and Teddy aged 8 years

These two inseparable siblings were rang in to us just a week before their owners were about to emigrate. They had lived with them since they were 8 weeks old and had never been away from home. At first they were a bit subdued and anxious, but soon realised they were amongst friends and accepted their situation. Teddy needed a scale and polish at the vets. but apart from that both were very healthy cats. We thought as they were so handsome, and very friendly it wouldn't be too difficult to rehome them. For some reason this wasn't the case, although we could have homed them separately. There was no way we were going to split them up as they doted upon each other, but they were becoming despondent and getting 'picky' with their food. It was four and a half months before they were eventually chosen, but it was worth the wait. Charlie and Teddy are now happily settled in their lovely new home - together, and are very much loved.



# Sponsored Dog Walk & Novelty Dog Show

Congratulations to every-one that put so much effort into raising a grand total of £3,459.30 at the Sponsored Dog Walk and 'Novelty' Dog Show at Ashton Court in September.

That is what's called brilliant team work. Thanks also to all the participants, 2 legged and 4 legged that walked for Holly Hedge, it was a wonderful sight to see so many of our ex-rescues doing their bit to help raise money for those less fortunate who are still waiting for caring owners. Hopefully next year they too will be joining in. Charlotte Uhlenbroek the Wildlife Presenter (known as the female Richard Attenborough) did an excellent job of judging the Dog Show with the help of Colin and Gerry. We are so grateful to her for taking the time out to support us even though she is very busy writing her second book. Thanks also to all the kind people who donated goods to sell at the auction, you did us proud. Lastly a special thank you to Steve (Sergeant) Jewell and his brother Wilf for camping out overnight to keep an eye on stalls that had already been set up for the following day - no-one would want to come into conflict with them on a dark night in the middle of Ashton Court! Needless to say everything was present and correct in the morning. Next year instead of having 2 separate events we will be amalgamating the Fun Day and Sponsored Walk to make one big event. This will be held on Sunday, 1st June 2008 and we look forward to seeing old friends and new come rain or shine on the day. Thanks again to all our supporters.



*Gerard -English Bull Terrier X -overall winner of the Fun Day dog show with owner Kirsti and our celebrity judge, Charlotte Uhlenbroek.*



We thought you might like to see a photo of Teddy and Charlie (left), looking content in their new home. They seem to have settled well, have now discovered their freedom in the garden and have almost got us trained to their standards! Teddy remains quite quiet and other than scaling the fences, doesn't stray far. Charlie thinks he is a kitten, and it is always he who wanders off and takes on next door's cat, frogs and any passing stranger or insect. Teddy, who you said wasn't eating well, now 'eats for England'. Charlie is fussier but is slowly putting on a little weight. He's still on the 'only supermeat' diet, until we can find something more exciting for him that doesn't upset him. The vet's given them both a clean bill of health although neither spoke to us for days after going to meet him to get their FeLV vaccination. We've registered them both with the Missing Pets Bureau and given your name as the emergency contact, should they not be able to get hold of us. The level of cover we've also taken out also ensures that if they need vet treatment as a result of their disappearance/accident/escapade, the Missing Pets Bureau will instruct a vet to go ahead and we guarantee payment. Heaven forbid any of this is necessary but with cats you never know and we'd rather be safe than sorry - we've taken just about every precaution we can think of for their comfort and safety.

We can't imagine being without them!

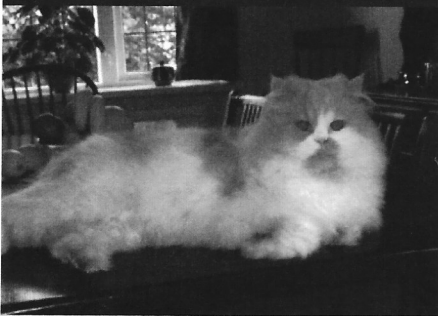
With best wishes from Sue & Alistair, Teddy and Charlie



## Alfie aged 5 years

Alfie, a very regal Persian cat was brought to the Sanctuary due to being jealous of the new baby. His owners now didn't have the time to groom his long hair which had become quite matted. However, they did the decent thing and had him sheared off at the vets under anaesthetic before bringing him to us. Unfortunately poor Alfie had to undergo another anaesthetic soon after as he badly needed a scale and polish, but he took it all in his stride and was a very laid back cat.

We knew it wouldn't be fair to rehome him with young children as he did like all the attention, plus whoever adopted him would have to be prepared to take the time to groom his long coat daily, once it had grown back. Lots of people admired Alfie but no-one wanted to adopt him - that is until Mavis came to Holly Hedge 7 weeks later. Mavis could give him all he needed, especially lots of love and attention which he is thriving on. Alfie is one happy cat and the picture of contentment.



Alfie has a few words to say about his new life:-

I have been at my new Mums house for just over a year now and I am very happy and settled. I have my owner well trained to my requirements, and the running of my home. I come and go as I please, and eat, sleep and watch TV with my mistress. I can be quite chatty at times, especially when I have a captive audience. I feel very much loved.

Alfie



## Barney aged 12 years

This dear old gentleman was brought to Holly Hedge as his owners had split up and neither party could take him with them. They had him from a puppy so it was a major upheaval for Barney to be away from people he had known all his life. We didn't have the heart to put him in a kennel so staff made him comfortable in the prep. room where food is cooked and prepared, and where he could see lots of people.

On his admission health check it was discovered he badly needed a dental, and had several red lumps on his gums. The vet informed us the lumps were benign growths which could be removed at the same time as his dental. Poor Barney had to have 10 teeth extracted as well as the nasty lumps, and needed lots of TLC afterwards. His food had to be all mashed up and staff hand fed him to coax him to eat. Everyone loved him, he was such a brave old soldier and had the sweetest nature. Barney was a great favourite with volunteer dog walkers with children as he was so gentle, and he really enjoyed going for walks in the woods. There was plenty of life in the old dog yet, all he wanted was some-one to take him home and love him. He was no trouble at all and was spotlessly clean, surely some kind person would want a faithful companion. Well, it was Barney's lucky day when Paul and Kay and their children came to us looking for a 'needy' dog. He was everything they were looking for, and wanted Barney to be part of the family. They knew they wouldn't have him as long as a younger dog, but that didn't matter as long as he had good quality of life. As you can see by his photograph he is still young at heart and very happy. Thank you so much for giving him a place in your hearts and your home.

The children have written to tell us all about their new friend.

Dear Holly Hedge,

This letter is from Oliver Dufty - we adopted a dog called Barney, a Collie X with black and white fur.

Barney has settled in well and is getting used to his new home. He is really funny when we come back from being out the house he runs around barking and collapses on the floor waiting for a tickle BUT don't stop or he growls at you for more attention.

He is sometimes really funny, He has started to get more energy when we run around the garden, he chases us and has even started playing with a ball.

At night when we are all going to bed he sometimes drags his blanket in to my mum & dad's bedroom and plays with it.

We found out that Barney hates the rain, when my dad took him out for a walk and it started to hammer down with rain Barney stopped, turned around and ran all the way home. He also likes the hair dryer and being brushed so if he is wet we can easily dry him.

Barney is very nice and in the car he will happily lie down on mine or my sister's lap and nap.

Thank you very much for letting us adopt Barney he is a lovely dog and I will never want to send him to another home.

FROM OLIVER DUFTY - AGE 11

Hello, I'm Meredith.

Do you remember having a dog called Barney? He is 11 years old and is black and fluffy. He likes to sleep a lot and he sometimes rolls on his back and falls to sleep with his feet in the air. He does not want a walk in the rain so we got him a coat but he feels silly in it and he doesn't run in it very well either. The funny thing that he does is - he goes on our carpet and rolls on his back with his legs in the air. It was worth nagging my mum and dad about getting a dog for 3 years because he is a good dog and I love him.

Thank you for letting us have Barney.

LOVE MEREDITH DUFTY - AGE 9





## Bryn aged 5 years

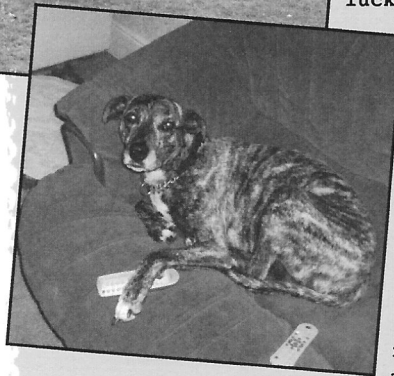
Bryn an affectionate Lurcher X originally came to us in June 2006. He had been involved in a road accident the previous week and was badly bruised. If we hadn't have taken him he was booked in to be put to sleep the following day.

This was because the 3 year old child tripped over Bryn when he was asleep and the dog turned round and nipped him. This was the first time ever he had shown any form of aggression towards any-one, and had always been so good with children. Bear in mind Bryn was bruised from his accident and his reaction was totally out of character, he certainly didn't deserve to be put down and had been a family pet since he was four weeks old.

When he first came in he was subdued as he had never been in kennels before, but he soon settled in and enjoyed lots of walks once he was vaccinated. On socialising him with other dogs we found on the lead he was fine, but off lead he had a tendency to want to fight so this had to be worked on. He loved chasing the ball and playing in the large grass compounds, Bryn had so much energy he needed lots of exercise to tire him out. Although he accepted a kennel situation he was missing all the comforts of home, and even though we put carpet in his kennel it just wasn't the same. We knew Bryn wouldn't be that easy to rehome because he didn't particularly get on with other dogs, but he did love humans. We thought it best to find him a home with older children or none at all after the incident with the 3 year old.

It took 8 months to find a home prepared to work on his socialisation with other dogs, and we thought we had hit the jackpot. Unfortunately after 6 weeks he was brought back to Holly Hedge due to his new owners not being able to cope with his dislike of other dogs! Bryn was very upset at being back in kennels after being in a home environment and became quite depressed. Staff did their best to get him out and about as much as possible, and his socialisation training was ongoing, but it took a while to settle him in. If only he realised he was his own worst enemy. It was another 8 months before he was chosen again, and this time he really did hit the jackpot thanks to Muriel and Ron. It may have taken time and patience but Bryn is now better behaved and so happy and contented – a pleasure to own.

Over to Bryn for an update:



Hi Everyone!

It's me Bryn! Well, I've been in my new home now coming up for 4 months and WOW what an exciting life I'm having.

When I first arrived I could not believe my luck; a cosy bed and biscuits at bed time and a lovely garden to run around in. I was however, a little bit naughty when we went out walking. After the first week I decided to stop pulling on the lead and I must say it's nice not to pull. When I was first let off I was a really really good boy then I realised that I can run and run and run and no one can catch me so I chased lots of rabbits around the field! I did come back every time but I just pretended I couldn't hear the girls calling me!!

I must say though now I am settled in I am really behaving myself. When I first arrived there was Muriel and Ron and

Danielle and Adam. (Muriel and Danielle were the two that I charmed over originally when they came to visit Holly Hedge)

After the first few weeks I started getting lots of visitors. I could not believe all the attention I was getting and I still get it now! I just love meeting new people and giving them big kisses .

Danielle and Adam have recently moved out. I was a bit confused when they first left but they included me in everything. I got to go and view the house with them to make sure it is safe for me to play in and the day after they moved in I got to spend the whole day there with Danielle unpacking boxes and just getting a feel for the place. The new house is only 2 mins up the road from Muriel and Ron's and they have a massive, huge garden. It's like a field!

I love hopping in the car and going over there. I stick my nose out of the window all the way there. When we get there I don't need to wear my lead as they have no neighbours and big gates at the road to stop anyone getting in (or me getting out!) To be honest I always stay close on or off the lead now so they don't really have to worry too much when we are out. I also have my own bed there and I get to sleep over!

My new routine works really well. 7.30am is breakfast and a wander around the garden. 8am is Walkies over the fields. We are usually gone about 45 mins as I like to be back to bark at the postman!

During the day I like to sleep a lot.. The longest I'm left in the day is about 3 hours. If Muriel or Danielle are at home with me I like to follow them around. Occasionally I get under their feet but they don't mind, they just call me silly and give me lots of fuss.

6pm is Dinner time then 7pm is my hours walk. Again I love to run and play and chase balls. I have now learnt that if I bring the ball back and drop it, it gets thrown again. I can't believe I never realised that before! I'm really glad that Ron and Adam are around too, I do love the girls but they're not that good at throwing sticks for me and they don't really like paddling in the stream but they are brilliant at cuddles!! (Although between you and me Ron & Adam do make a big girly fuss of me when the girls aren't around!)

I have met a few dogs around the village, some I like and some I don't like. I do tend to get on well with spaniels and greyhounds but all the collies around here bark at me so I bark back....only louder!

Usually in the evenings I like to watch TV and have a cuddle on the sofa. If I'm at Danielle & Adams I like to do a bit of digging. I used to get told off for it but since I've been going behind the shed I don't think they have noticed!!

Bedtime I get a couple of biscuits and if they forget to wrap my blanket over me I make it known! I just love to snuggle up at night. Well I must say I am a very happy Lurcher here and I wish that all my friends could have come with me from Holly Hedge. Please say Hello to the boys & girls out in the kennels who looked after me for so long.

I have put you in a few pictures so as you can see what a confident happy boy I have become!

Lots of Love Bryn

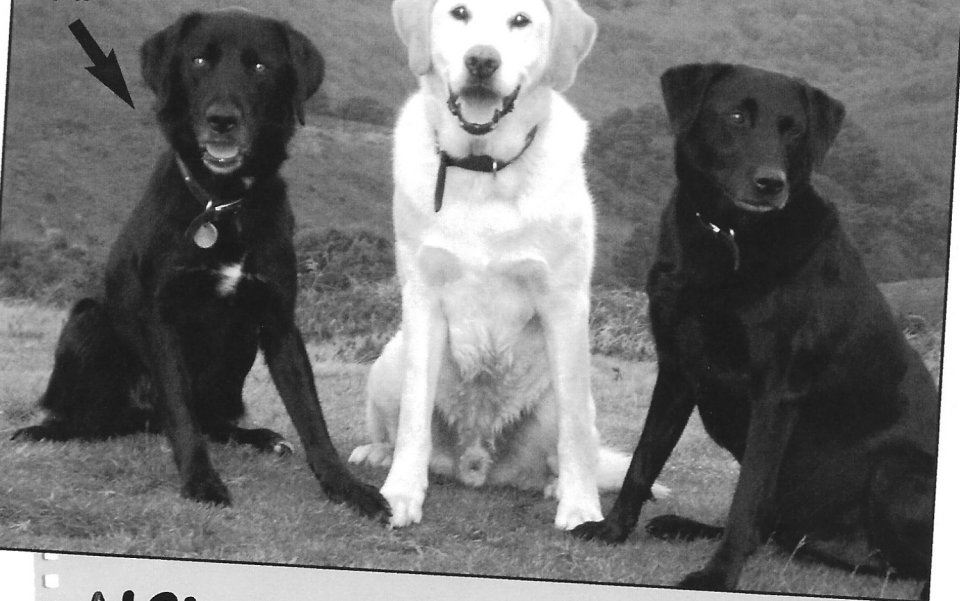


## Top of the class – Alfie aged 2 years

Alfie a very sweet Labrador X Collie was yet another victim of a relationship break-up and neither party could accommodate him. He was a little nervous when he first came to us but soon realised that Holly Hedge wasn't such a bad half way house after all. He was such a friendly boy, and really enjoyed playing with other dogs. He liked children of all ages and was very responsive to training, a good all rounder. In less than a week he was chosen by Chris and Lyn who had 2 other dogs. When the three of them met up all went remarkably well. Alfie was so lucky to be chosen so quickly, and has fitted in perfectly with his new family. If only all our rescues could be in and out in the space of a week!

Chris and Lyn give an update on Alfies progress.

Alfie



## Alfie – Lab x collie, adopted 12 May 2007

The training instructors told us that Alfie was top of the class and have said that his heel work is so good that he is already up to competition standard and we should consider entering him in a local event, which I am sure he would love. They were also very complimentary about Holly Hedge Sanctuary's policy of ensuring that new owners put the dogs through training.

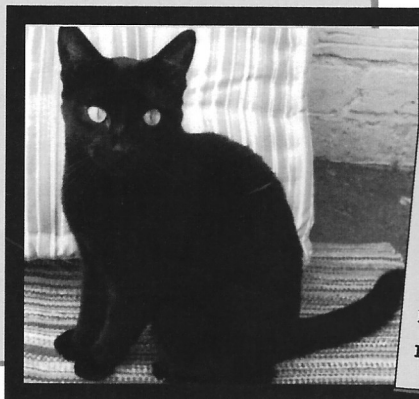
We will continue with the dog training in higher classes as he enjoys the sessions so much, and with the collie intelligence evident, he deserves to be fully trained.

Alfie has settled into his new home as well as we could have hoped for and is relaxed and happy in the company of our other two dogs, Jake and Murray. He is a gentle dog, always eager to please, and it is a delight for him to be part of our family.

Lyn and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all at Holly Hedge Sanctuary for giving us the opportunity of having the pleasure of providing Alfie with a home and enjoying seeing his character develop.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully  
Chris & Lyn Arnold



## Wella aged approximately 2 years

Wella was phoned into us just 4 days before her owner was moving to another part of the country and couldn't take the little cat with her. She had given birth to two kittens nine weeks earlier which had recently been rehomed, and poor Wella was still producing milk. We had to wait 2 weeks until her milk dried up and she could be spayed to prevent any more unwanted kittens. She was such a cute, cuddly little cat whose loud purr attracted attention to her, we knew it wouldn't be long before she was chosen. A nice young couple came to Holly Hedge 6 weeks later looking for a friendly cat that liked children as they planned to have a family in the future. Wella fitted that description perfectly as she was good with children of all ages. Matt and Liz thought she was adorable, so after the preliminary home-check they took her home. Now well and truly settled in, her owners sent us an update:

Just writing to give you an update on our cat, Wella and to let you know how she is getting on.

She settled into our house straight away and immediately became part of the family. Friends and family fall in love with her when they meet her.

She loves to play with her toys and always keeps us entertained. Wella adores human company and she is never far away from us. She loves cuddles and wakes us up every morning with her loud purrs. She runs to the door when we have been out and rolls over onto her back for a belly rub – always purring loudly!

Wella has got such a character, she certainly knows how to be cute. She loves food and a little cute paw always pops up at the dinner table asking for food. She has recently made friends with our neighbours' kitten and they follow each other everywhere, I have even found them asleep snuggled up together.

Thank you for finding us a beautiful cat.

Love Liz, Matt and Wella xxx



## Irene aged 2 years

Irene came to us when she was 6 months old. Apparently she had grown much larger than her owners anticipated, and became too boisterous for the children to cope with. Also they were unable to give her the exercise and training she needed. The result was a big puppy who lacked social skills through no fault of her own. Although she was extremely lively her temperament was flawless, she was just a big bundle of excess energy that needed channelling in the right direction. When introduced to other dogs she was wanting to play, but much too roughly, not knowing when to stop. We hoped that gradually she would learn her boundaries and know when 'enough was enough', but her progress was very slow. With staff and visitors Irene was so loving and craved affection, but her problems with other dogs, both male and female were bordering on aggression. She badly needed a home quickly to continue her training and socialisation in a quieter environment. A month passed and no-one had given her a second glance, then a nice couple chose her who were willing to do anything necessary to rehabilitate her. They had a young child but Irene loved children. We were worried that they may not have the time to devote to her training but were assured this wouldn't be a problem- so off she went to start a new life.

Six days later she was reluctantly returned to us as she was too strong when out walking, if she saw a cat or dog she would become uncontrollable and lunge. We couldn't attach any blame to the people as they really did try but she proved too much of a handful and had a mind of her own. Irene needed a firm but kind owner who was as strong physically as she was. In desperation our Kennel Supervisor took her to see Dr. Roger Mugford at the Animal Behaviour Centre in Surrey. We had told him about her problem and he very kindly offered to assess her free of charge as she was a rescued dog. He confirmed what we already knew, that her poor social skills amongst dogs relates to lack of early contact when a puppy. He also confirmed she presented a considerable threat to other dogs. That said, he also remained optimistic that she could improve beyond her present state of intolerance and become homeable. We were given verbal and written advice on how best to train Irene which was followed to the letter, and she gradually improved. Dr. Mugford stated she would never be a threat to humans and had the potential for giving much love and pleasure.

It was 18 months later when at long last Irene was chosen by a gentleman that lived on his own and wanted a companion. He had recently had to have his old dog put to sleep, who came from Holly Hedge, and was still grieving. He and Irene hit it off straight away, and in spite of her not being 'perfect' he was willing to give her his best shot. She is as devoted to her new owner as he is to her, and all her problems have been overcome. We are so grateful to Brian for having faith in Irene and for making her feel loved and wanted, she is one happy big girl as you can see by her photo.



## Brian's daughter gives us an update on Irene's progress

Irene – now better known as Rene was adopted by my dad, Brian after the sad death of his much loved companion, Spike, also a former resident at Holly Hedge. As Rene had been with you for much of her short life she had become a firm favourite of your staff, however, she was entrusted to dad, as it was felt he could give Rene the love and attention she enjoyed.

She settled in very quickly and was given free run of the house. There were a few occasions, when dad had gone out, where she managed to nudge the bathroom door open, get hold of the loo rolls and proceeded to rip them to shreds!. Maybe this was her telling dad she was not very happy at being left on her own.

Rene loves to go for long walks, she is not so keen on the rain though! She is now much better with other dogs, she just sniffs and walks away. She will even play with my brothers 7 year old German Shepherd and they even went on a 3 mile walk together off lead. She is as good as gold. She loved to sunbathe in the garden in the summer and likes to snuggle up to dad in the evening to watch TV – not sure who snores the loudest though – dad or Rene – She loves going for rides in the car, sitting up and watching out the window as the world goes by. She is there waiting at the window when dad comes home – the best welcoming committee for anyone to have.

Rene is attentive and loving – a great companion with a fantastic personality! She knows when you're sad or when you're happy, and is there with a nudge and a lick just when it's needed. She is a very much loved member of the family and is spoilt rotten.



# We want happy endings too

We're on the web!  
[www.hollyhedge.org.uk](http://www.hollyhedge.org.uk)

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



**Daisy and Holly – Shelties, aged 10 years**

These inseparable sisters became homeless when their elderly owner became too ill to care for them. They are the sweetest pair and despite their age, enjoy lots of walks. They look longingly, hoping to be chosen together so they can be happy again.



**Susie – German Shepherd cross, aged 2 years**

Found straying with 4 puppies. After fending for herself and her babies, who have all been rehomed, Susie is so desperate to be someone's loyal companion.



**Leo – Rottweiler, aged 2.5 years**

This poor dog has spent most of his life living on a verandah. He was deprived of walks and had very little human company. Despite this Leo is now a fun-loving lad who waits patiently to be chosen. An owner used to the breed and is able to continue with his socialisation would be ideal. He would be such a faithful friend if only given the chance.



**Dee Dee – German Shepherd Dog, aged 7 years**

Dee Dee was abandoned in boarding kennels where she stayed for 2 years waiting for her owner to come and take her home. This never happened, so she is now with us looking for a new owner. Dee Dee is very active and loves to play. She has waited long enough for the comforts of

home and to be someone's loyal companion, this time for the rest of her life.



**Seamus – collie X, aged 6 years**

A loveable, lively boy, full of fun and loves everybody. His ex-owners decided they would like to travel abroad as much as possible, then eventually emigrate, so Seamus didn't fit into their lifestyle. All he longs for is a caring family to pick up the pieces of his shattered life.



**Ralph – Jack Russell, aged 3 years**

This little character loves his walks and playtimes. He would suit a person living alone to give him the individual attention he craves. In return he would bestow his unconditional love. Come in and see him, it would make his day.



**Bourbon & Biscuit – aged 5 months**

These two siblings were very scared little kittens who were found abandoned. They are fast gaining confidence in humans and would love the chance to see what all the comforts of home can offer. Please don't disappoint them.



**Holly – Lab cross, 5 months**

Holly was originally brought into Holly Hedge at 12 weeks old, having been found in a cardboard box with her sister, dangerously close to the River Ye. Despite this start in life, she is an incredibly loving dog who likes nothing

more than to cuddle up under someone's feet with her toys. A new owner with time and patience to help regain her confidence is top of Holly's Christmas list! Thank you!



**Mr. Ping – aged 7 years**

Mr. Ping is with us because of a relationship break-up. A friendly, happy little cat he longs to be taken home to feel secure again.



**Suki – aged 5 years**

A sweet, affectionate cat who would love to be the only pet. A quiet home where she would have all the attention to herself would make her purr with happiness and make her life complete.



**Danny – aged 1 year**

This adorable little cat was taken to the vet to be put to sleep as he was no longer wanted. Although he is only partially sighted he loves to play and is so affectionate. Danny lives in hope that some caring person will look beyond his disability and welcome him home.



**Barley – aged X years**

Barley is a handsome cat who was brought into Holly Hedge as a stray. At first he can be a little timid but is very loving once he gets to know you. He loves to have a fuss made of him and would flourish even more in the security of a loving home. He is now looking for that ideal home where he can have a fresh start. Can you give Barley a comfy lap to curl up on?

