

# HOLLY HEDGE Newsletter CHRISTMAS 2011 ISSUE



Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future

## GOK WAN and the wonderful Vodafone World of Difference

We all felt highly honoured to meet **Gok** and his crew when they visited Holly Hedge regarding the **Vodafone World of Difference**.

Gok is the Ambassador for the World of Difference and such a lovely person – so natural and easy to talk to.

Lots of photographs were taken with staff, and Max our rescued Border Collie had the privilege of some exclusive photo shoots with Gok, who was very taken with Max.



# Chief Executive's Report by Pauline Leeson

**Firstly** may I apologise for the absence of the Spring/Summer newsletter – and hope that the double edition will go some way towards making up for this. I am temporarily back at the helm writing the newsletters, so I must hold my hand up and admit that this is entirely my fault – and hope I am forgiven!

During the past year Holly Hedge has rehomed **322 dogs** and **268 cats**, which shows an increase in dogs rehomed, and a slight decrease in cats. This year kitten season started in February, and has been ongoing ever since. We have had as many as **68 kittens** and **33 adults** to care for at one time, and have had to appeal for foster homes to help an insurmountable situation as we cannot contemplate leaving pregnant or nursing mums or kittens to fend for themselves or become feral.

## Faith, Hope & Charity

It's been a turbulent year, with a rollercoaster of ups and downs, and many things sent to try us, but we feel at last, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. This is largely thanks to **Ethical** who have paved the way for Holly Hedge to generate more income with our charity shop, and giving us the opportunity to sell our own brand of merchandise and pet products in a much bigger reception area. The shop is thriving and boosting our coffers considerably. With our **new Manager, Claire** and a great team of volunteers the shop is going from strength to strength. I must give a special mention to **Zelah** who dresses our shop window every week, making it look so spectacular and inviting. Everyone is doing a brilliant job. We are also doing well with sales in reception, and our future is certainly looking brighter. This year **Ethical** have kindly allowed us a grant for a **Fundraiser** for a year, also a new, user-friendly, more professional, updated website that will promote Holly Hedge in a new and progressive way, including an on-line shop. This has meant so much to the Charity, and given us a solid foundation for the future of Holly Hedge and all the animals who depend on us for their wellbeing. Their faith in us has been so uplifting and inspirational, and we will

never be able to thank them enough for believing in us.

**Staff** and **volunteers** have been brilliant, and have pulled together to establish a team to be proud of.

Holly Hedge is so fortunate to have such loyal supporters who strive to see the Sanctuary flourish, and continue to be a crucial lifeline for the increasing number of animals needing our help.

**There are many, many people that we have to thank for making Holly Hedge the special place it is today, people who have stuck with us through changing and challenging times, and although it is impossible to give everyone a mention, these wonderful people have our immense gratitude.**

Apologies in advance to anyone I may have forgotten on our 'thank you' pages, you will undoubtedly be mentioned in the next newsletter.

Our fabulous Fundraisers continue to do us proud, with **Dianne Stephens** organising shop collections and table top sales. We really appreciate all their unwaivering support and dedication.

## Star support

We have been extremely fortunate to be involved with the **Vodafone World of Difference** who do such sterling work to help charities. **Sam Chapman**, one of our volunteers applied for a grant to work as a Fundraiser for Holly Hedge for 2 months and was accepted. **Gok Wan** is the Ambassador for the **Vodafone World of Difference**, and he and his entourage visited the Sanctuary and did some filming, and took lots of photos which were displayed on **UTube** and our **website** and **Facebook** page. We also had lots of press coverage. Gok enjoyed his visit and was so caring and compassionate towards our rescues - a day to remember in the history of Holly Hedge. Sam helped out with several fund raising events, including the Family Fun Day, and arranged a **Monty Halls and Reuben** evening which raised £854. Monty gave a brilliant presentation, and showed his captive audience clips of his **Great Irish Escape**. Reuben behaved impeccably as usual, and as always,

was a huge hit with everyone. Monty and Reuben continue to be wonderful Ambassadors for Holly Hedge, even though for the moment they are living in Cornwall. Reuben has even written a book, and we hope to have some signed copies to auction in the spring!

## Going, going, gone...

As we were unable to complete the auction due to heavy rain driving into the lorry on our **Family Fun Day** at Ashton Court. We will be organising a **Spring Auction** on Friday 25th May 2012 at Shipham Village Hall. We did manage to make £6,200 on the Wet and Windy Fun Day in spite of the dreadful weather. I have to say everyone who participated were absolutely brilliant. The day got off to a late start as torrential rain prevented stallholders from setting up – some went home in despair, others didn't turn up at all. Our friends and supporters who braved the elements did a tremendous job against the odds. The very professional Auctioneer did brilliantly and raised £600 for us before rain stopped play. Ian Fergusson, BBC Weather Presenter and his partner Alex did a superb job of judging the Dog Show regardless of dogs being wet and muddy, and everyone pulled together in the true spirit of Holly Hedge.

We intend to remain a safe haven for abused, abandoned and unwanted animals as long as we are needed – and sadly that will be for a very, very long time – certainly long after my demise.

With Christmas fast approaching we are already experiencing an influx of unwanted pets, both dogs and cats. Today we took in a heavily pregnant cat, and a mum with her 6 puppies, who will definitely not be rehomed as Christmas presents.

Thank you all for supporting Holly Hedge. The future is looking very positive.

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*







# Mastiffs make wonderful Companions



I had made several visits to Holly Hedge, looking for a dog who would be the right temperament to join my two dogs, both rescue and both with 'issues' before I adopted them; one a female alsatian and the other a male lurcher 'cross' who does get 'cross' with other dogs. I was giving up hope of finding a suitable companion who would also have to live with cats, koi carp fish, a tortoise, ducks and two cockatiels, when along came 'Meg'. Holly Hedge had rescued her from a life of living in a garage, being used as a breeding machine. Her undercarriage left a lot to be desired, but having suckled so many puppies, what is a girl to expect!! It was love at first sight and after meeting my dogs, and the home check was complete, it was clear she was the perfect dog to join our pack. She is gentle, calm and very tolerant, often sleeping with two cats wrapped around her head! Week by week she has adapted to enjoying walks across the fields, even 'plodding' after rabbits who always escape miles ahead of all three dogs. She has got used to getting into the car and even watching TV – especially the animal adverts!

Some months later I sadly lost my alsatian and fate stood in when I received a call from Holly Hedge advising me that a female mastiff urgently needed a home.

The owner didn't want her going into kennels, but needed to re-home her as she was being left at home for up to 10 hours a day while he was at work. So after a phone call to the owner, arrangements were made for Suki to visit before the weekend.

Not a classic beauty like Megan who has a proper bull mastiff face and brown colouring. Suki is black brindle, has a pushed back nose, a protruding tooth and looks a lot like a little gorilla, a fat little gorilla, as she needs to lose weight. But the dogs took to her straight away and Jason, my lurcher, can be very fussy about newcomers! The cats also took to her and she to them, sleeping with one of them on her first night with us. She is just like Megan in her quest for attention and cuddles, and also in her quest for food, as I discovered to my cost when I left an apple pie on the side of the kitchen and it disappeared leaving only a few tell-tale crumbs round a little black mouth which looked very satisfied with itself! My other two dogs looked completely disgusted and assured me that they had nothing to do with the theft or with eating the evidence! I would like to say that I can now safely leave things out again as she seems to have got over her tea-leaving.

Another thing which surprised me was Suki's turn of speed. Usually she ambles around with Jason and Meg, but if Jason takes off after a scent or if, as sometimes happens, we take a friend's dog out with us, a Belgian shepherd who runs even faster than Jason, she can change gears and run across fields as fast as they can, leaving Megan and me to amble along in their wake.

Suki has fitted into our home beautifully and everyone who meets her falls in love with her, as we did. Her main happiness comes with giving and receiving lots of cuddles and she and Megan vie with each other as to who gets the most attention, while Jason watches over them with the air of a dog who knows his own worth and doesn't need constant petting to prove it! I think they are perfect.



## Donations

Holly Hedge would be very grateful for donations of the following items:-

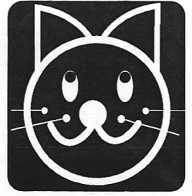
- White A4 copier paper
- Duvets (not feather filled)
- Tinned cat food esp. jelly
- Tinned dog food (Winalot & Butchers are a favourite) \*\*\*URGENT\*\*\*
- Puppy tinned food
- Small puppy complete dog biscuit
- Dog Treats (Gravy Bones, Medium to Large Raw Hide chews)
- Paper-based cat litter
- Squeaky toys and rubber balls
- Non-Bio Washing Liquid
- Washing up Liquid
- Postage stamps
- Used postage stamps (please tear off postmark)
- Carrier bags for our Charity Shop
- Stackable Chairs
- Good quality items to sell in our Charity Shop

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have an abundance of dried dog & cat food and do not need any more for the moment, thank you.





# Happy Cat & Dog Tails



## Bobby

Bobby was 8 months old when he arrived at Holly Hedge as his owners couldn't cope with him. They had forgotten how bouncy a young puppy could be after being used to an old, placid dog over the last few years.

Bobby wasn't with us for long when he was chosen by Tracey and Chris - and he hasn't looked back since. He's been to a Wedding and had the privilege of sharing the Honeymoon too - that's one very pampered poodle!



A new addition to our family in 2011 and a breath of fresh air!

A beautiful boy with a sweet personality who wins over everybody he meets. He's an absolute delight from morning 'til night, forever joyful and playful. He receives numerous offers of "walkies" from each member of our family - which he obligingly accepts! He loves meeting other dogs out on their walks too and also enjoys going to the local pub where he has made friends with a young female spaniel and a huge Labradoodle and attracts lots of attention whilst sitting on his bar stool.

Now that he has 'his feet under the table' his real personality is shining through and he has become a loyal companion, guarding my desk while I work and welcoming my husband on his return each night, helping him to forget the worries of the day. His favourite hobbies include: digging; running a mini-marathon around the garden and 'playing football' with his mini tennis balls!

He loves his trips to Devon and joined us on our honeymoon in July this year. He enjoyed our coastal walks (confusing the local sheep - who weren't sure if he was sheep or dog!), digging holes on the beach and paddling in the sea. He turned lots of heads and made lots of new friends - canine and human.

We are looking forward to our first Christmas with him and we're sure he'll receive lots of presents and plenty of treats from Santa.

Tracey & Chris

## Jo Jo, age 9 years

Jo Jo came to Holly Hedge in November 2010 having been abandoned by her previous owner who had moved from the area and left her behind.

It was a bitterly cold month, and at first she was glad to be in the warm, and couldn't stop eating as she was quite underweight. She was a great favourite with our volunteer cat cuddlers who knew not to over fuss her as when she got fed up she would aim a right hook to warn them enough was enough. She never hurt anyone but the element of surprise put off visiting public from adopting her. Although Jo Jo loved it in our big cat garden, she became increasingly reluctant to go back into her cattery, and was obviously telling us she'd had enough of Holly Hedge, no matter how well we cared for her.

Poor Jo Jo had to wait 11 months before she was chosen by Jane, who didn't mind a cat with 'cattitude', and we knew that at long last she had found her purrfect home.

Having spent nearly a year at Holly Hedge, Jo Jo has adapted to being here surprisingly quickly. Far from staying in one room at first as I'd expected she was keen to explore the whole house straight away. She has since made a detailed study of every room as well as trying to open cupboard doors to explore them as well. Now that she can go into the garden she is surveying that in similar detail.

She has found a number of places where she likes to settle and recently spent a night on a blanket in the airing cupboard having slipped in when I opened the door and then made sure she didn't come out when I was nearby so I couldn't shut the door!

She can still lie in one place for an extraordinary length of time but now combines that with moving around a fair amount quite energetically.

She likes to spend time sitting on my lap but once there does want me to sit still for several hours and objects - often vocally - when I move. At the end of the evening

she has developed a nifty about turn so that when I move she can settle on the warm spot where I've been sitting.

I am loving having Jo Jo - she's great company and seems to have settled here very happily.

Jane





# A mother's love for little orphan May

On 26th May at 1.30pm a tiny newborn kitten was brought to Holly Hedge, the mother was nowhere to be seen, and since 8.30am she had been left on her own crying pitifully. The poor little mite was very cold, wet and lifeless, and there seemed little hope of her surviving – but our dedicated staff don't give up that easily. She was massaged with a warm towel to warm her up and get her circulation going, and eventually she began to lift her tiny head, although still very weak.

We knew she wasn't out of the woods yet – what she really needed was her mum, so we tried the next best thing and placed her with Simba, a very maternal and friendly cat and her five, almost three week old babies. Simba took over straight away, and washed her, mothered her, and tried to feed her, but May was still too weak to suckle at first, so Lou who was caring for her, had to squeeze some of Simba's milk slowly into her mouth until finally little May found the strength to latch on – then there was no stopping her!

Later on that evening Mum and kittens were all snuggled up together and little May was as warm as toast with a very full tummy. The following morning this little fighter was so much better, she had gained strength and could find her way to Simba's teat, totally accepted by her step siblings. Aren't animals wonderful, they could surely teach we humans a thing or two!

In spite of searching for her birth mother, she was never found – we can only hope someone is caring for her too. Ten days lapsed and May opened her eyes. It didn't bother her at all that she was so much smaller than her brothers and sisters, and she loved to watch them play even though she wasn't big enough to join in. She was a happy, plump, healthy little kitten, and adored by everyone.

The time came when she was old enough to find a human family who would love and care for her as Simba had done. She didn't have to wait too long to find her forever home, and is thriving on all the attention lavished upon her.



Hello Holly Hedge,

We are writing to let you know how well 'May' has settled in with the McCall family in Portishead.

We took her home in early September having been at Holly Hedge since she was rescued in May. She was gorgeous and we knew we just had to have her.

She has a lovely nature and is very affectionate with all of us. She is also well behaved apart from a 15 minute period in the morning and at night where she gets excited and sprints around the house showing off. She has been introduced to the garden and enjoys walking around on a harness. She has also made friends with our rabbit 'Nibbles' and seems fascinated by her. In the next few weeks she will be able to have a free reign outside.

She likes her food and her favourite treat is cod – she goes crazy when she knows it is being cooked for her.

We all love her to bits and are looking forward to our first Christmas with her. We have already been looking at silly hats for her to wear on Christmas Day.

Regards

Rob, Nicki, James & Emily McCall







# Happy Cat Tails

## Little Lucy

Lucy was only 8 months old and was diagnosed with a Liver Shunt. She came to Holly Hedge with her siblings who were all fit and healthy and much bigger than her. This is a congenital defect in which an abnormal blood vessel shunts blood from the intestines, bypasses the liver, and goes straight into the rest of the circulation system. As some blood has not been dealt with by the liver it means some substances from digestion are not broken down and can cause neurological signs, especially just after eating, such as odd behaviour, salivating and the occasional gastrointestinal upset. On vets advice by managing the diet, and keeping protein levels reduced we helped control these signs and Lucy maintained a good quality of life, behaving like any normal kitten of her age. She loved to play with the other kittens, and romps around with Alice, a little Staffie puppy in the large cat garden, running up and down the climbing frames and chasing leaves.

There is an operation which may cure Lucy, but there are no guarantees that the shunt wouldn't reoccur, and the whole procedure could cost £5000 with no guarantees. This still isn't ruled out, but as she was thriving on diet alone with only the 'odd blip' we thought 'leave well enough alone'. Our vet said she could go on for another 5 years at least.

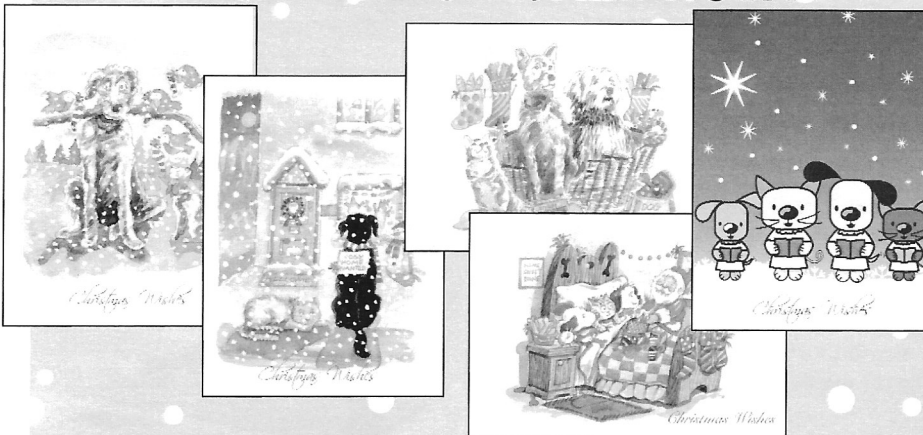
As much as we all loved little Lucy, and she was a great favourite with our cat cuddlers, she needed to be in a loving home - but who would want this little mite. She had a great deal of interest in her, but as soon as her medical condition was explained other cats or kittens were chosen instead.

Then Maggi and Gihan came along, and their hearts went out to her. There was no hesitation, Lucy was the one for them. At last she was going home and everyone at Holly Hedge was overjoyed. We can't thank them enough for giving Lucy the happiness she deserves.

Hiya! My name is Lucy, which means Light! I was born at Holly Hedge in August 2010, where I was brought up by everyone to be friendly and fearless. Grrrr! I got to stay at HH for a long time because my liver doesn't always work as it should. Super friendly visitors came to see me and were sorry they couldn't take me home because they needed extra time to look after me. I liked being at HH lots, though. Everyone made a humongous big fuss over me and I made fast friends with lots of great dogs and cats and humans, too. I'll always remember HH and how much fun I had there. Then Maggi and Gihan came along - they had that bit of extra time, so they got to take me home (lucky folks!). Since then, we've had loads of adventures together. I get to climb stairs, ladders, trees, and fences every day and see my fetching reflection in the pond in our garden. I get to chase crinkly leaves and sniff out all the stories in the wind. Gihan climbs trees with me. Because of my slightly wonky liver, I can't go outside by myself, but Maggi gave me a pretty pink harness with cherry blossoms on it, and I take her for walkies all over - the tennis court, village hall, playing fields lined with copper beeches and oaks (crinkly leaves!!!), into Yarnole Wood and up Ashton Hill, where you can see the Mendips stretched out like a great round mum of a cat all belly up and smooth warm green under the sun. Sometimes I like to sit very still and look straight up at the bright open sky between my whiskers. Prrrr! Maggi says it makes my copper eyes go all sparkley. I've made loads of new friends, too: tennis players and their dogs, football players, workers in hard hats having a laugh with me while digging ditches or trimming trees, neighbourhood children, grown-ups, Kizzy the Glamour Puss and Bailey the Irish Cream Spaniel - lots of walkers, too. Now that winter's coming, I'm looking forward to playing in the snow - wheeeeeeee! Happy Christmas Everyone!

Lots of love, Lucy xox

## NEW RANGE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR 2011 ON SALE NOW!



Specially designed for Holly Hedge by local artist Dave Long and his daughter, designer Tania Taber. Price: £2.50 for pack of 6. Bargain!

## Where there's a will

When making your Will, please consider Holly Hedge and the future of so many homeless, abused and abandoned animals who depend on us for help.

Your bequest could make all the difference, and ensure we can always provide a safe haven and crucial lifeline.

Remember, animals rely solely on humans for their wellbeing - and where there's a Will...



# Big fat Snowy the cat



**Snowy** came to Holly Hedge on the 13th September 2010 after his beloved owner passed away. He was a large, rotund cat weighing in at 9.10kgs which was rather huge! He waddled around, very confused, as his world had been turned upside down. Our hearts went out to him, but we knew we had to be kind, this poor cat had to lose a lot of weight to make him more mobile and comfortable. This was not easy!! Even though it had to be done for his sake, we felt so mean - he loved his food! He badly needed a scale and polish, but due to his weight it would have been too risky for him to undergo an anaesthetic, so we were under strict instructions by Vale Vets to put him on a diet. Cat cuddlers adored him as he was like a big teddy bear, so he got lots of attention - but no-one wanted to adopt this portly gentleman. Within 3 months he had lost enough weight to have his dental.

Eventually, after losing over 3 kgs, and looking rather more streamlined, almost a year later he was chosen by Tina, who has given him a new lease of life. Snowy (now Mr. Spock) couldn't be happier in his new home. He is now 10 years old and able to do all the things cats love to do - and he sure is looking good for his age!

Just to let you know that Snowy (I now call him Mr Spock because of his ears) has settled in so well. He chatters all the time and when I speak - whether to him or on the phone - he swishes his tail.

He has made friends with my neighbours who love him just as much as I do. He isn't a lap cat but likes to sit next to me on the arm of the chair with his paws resting on my leg. He enjoys his food and used to beg for it when he first came. Now he doesn't bother.

He loves to cuddle up on my bed and now that that the cold weather is here, he likes nothing better than lying in front of the fire outstretched.

He has made such a difference to my life - he is great company but I think he is getting fed up with my singing!!

Thank you again for letting me have him in my home.

*Tina Milan*

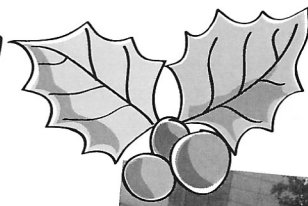
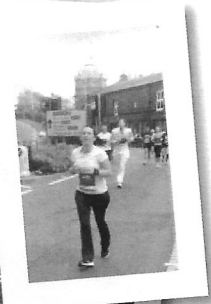
## The sky's the limit!

Thanks to **Laura** for raising an amazing £1,064 on her first skydiving mission for Holly Hedge - a very brave young lady.

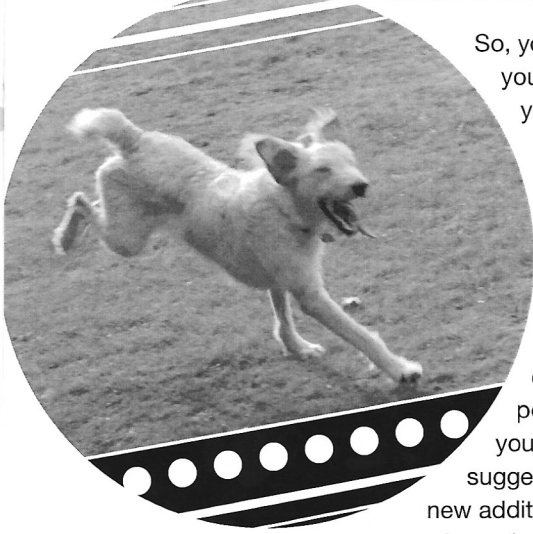
Thanks also to **Gemma** who raised a brilliant £255 for completing the Bristol Half Marathon.

Both these girls did Holly Hedge proud.

If anyone is interested in raising much-needed funds for Holly Hedge, please contact us. We will be very pleased to hear from you!



# REASONS NOT TO CRATE YOUR FAMILY MEMBER



So, you're ready to welcome a new member into your family. Having done your research, or so you think, and decided that what you want is to have a dog. It would be lovely to have one to grow up with your children, greet you when you get home from work, company for when you are at home/and/or, a great way for you to get exercise. You know that when you do get one you don't want it to be able to harm itself or to ruin your home by chewing furniture/carpets etc, or end up possibly chewing live electric wires! ..... So you talk to lots of people, some of whom suggest that it would be a good idea to put your new addition into a crate/cage when you are out -

loads of people do it, so and so's vet, or behaviourist recommended one, it can become a safe haven, a place to get away to when he/she want peace & quiet, and it is even supposed to help with 'house training' as animals 'won't toilet in their bed'. You decide that must be the way to go so, along with bowls, leads, and blankets, purchase a cage for your new pet. When leaving the house you pop him/her into the cage with some water and a couple of toys. On arriving home again the poor thing is soooooo pleased to see you and when let out of the cage, runs around like a whirlwind, jumping up and grabbing anything he/she comes across and starts chewing it, urinating on the floor in excitement - basically doing anything possible to get your undivided attention. You need to clean all the mess up and get your pet to calm down, so he/she is back in the cage again!

## DON'T DO IT!!!!!!

I have just taken on a 14 month Labradoodle (although she looks more like a lurcher and is the same size), who has been crated all day 3 days a week due to her previous owners working commitments. She is a lovely girl - BUT - she has no social skills at all. She has never had to learn self discipline so jumps up at everyone (and she is a big girl to be doing that), she wants to play ALL the time, she just doesn't know what to do with her freedom. She wants to play with the younger of my two other dogs, and so does he, but she doesn't know when to stop, and so when he wants to, she becomes a bit of a bully. I think she must also have been shut away when people are eating as she would have her nose on your plate if she could get away with it!!! Our next step with her is to take her to training classes as soon as we can get her into one, but it is going to be so much harder for her because she has 'learnt' so many bad habits. When we are out on our 'off lead' walks she is in heaven. She runs like the wind with our younger dog (see action shot of her having fun) and is now gaining the confidence to go further from us (possibly a bit too much so!!!!) and it is a joy to see her enjoying herself so much.

She has no muscle tone from where she has been cooped up in a very confined space and, although she was about 4-5KG underweight when she came to us, I think she is struggling to gain that weight purely because she has so much energy. Just think what it must have been like for her to have been confined for so many hours.

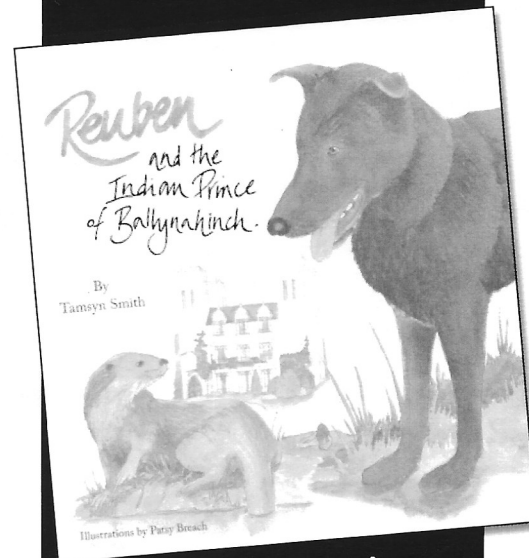
**WOULD** you do that to one of your children? No? Then please don't do it to your dog (who is also supposed to be a much loved member of your family). They need to 'learn' how to behave, just like children, and they cannot do that inside a confined cage. YOU have to teach them, exercise them, entertain them and if they need a 'safe haven', I am sure they will find one somewhere within their home.

## Adventures with Reuben

All our Monty and Reuben fans will be pleased to hear that Reubs now has his very own book for children 5 years and over, written by Tamsyn Smith with illustrations by Patsy Breach.

Reubs is a lovable, kind, caring dog with an adventurous, daring side. He is covered from his wet nose to his bushy tail in black, glossy fur. His ears flop down on either side of his furry head, and his long tongue lolls out of the side of his mouth. His eyes sparkle and his bark is very loud!

Reubs will always help you if you're in need. He can sniff out your lost and most cherished belongings. He'll be there for you whenever you call his name. If you want to go on an adventure, your friend Reubs will join you!



Are you ready for Reuben's first escapade? Are you quite sure you can keep up? Ok... let's go!

"With this book I can at last find out what great adventures my best friend Reubs has been up to. Princes, ruby rings, castles and otters - who would have thought it! Reuben has been the best companion on my travels that anyone could wish for, so now it's time for you to open the first page, start reading, and I hope you enjoy your adventures with him as much as I have"  
**Monty Halls**

If anyone would like to purchase Reuben's book, Holly Hedge have them on sale at £7.99.





# Mini Fundraisers

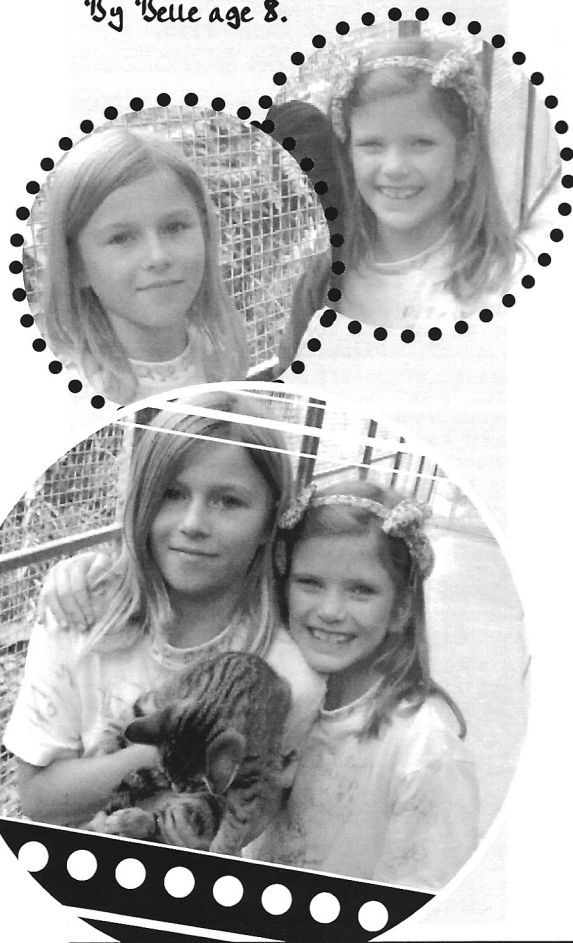
Sincere thanks to India and Belle for raising a brilliant £62 to help our rescues. It is so heartwarming that these young girls have taken the time and initiative to make a difference.

When we went to Holly Hedge it inspired us to do a sale to raise money for them. So, we sorted out any stuff that we didn't want and had a sale at church. We also made some cakes that went very fast! We raised over £60 for the animals at Holly Hedge.

*By India age 8.*

I came to Holly Hedge and I fell in love with a cat called Lucy. She was a kitten and very ill and when I heard I was very sad. That is why me and my friend India raised money for Holly Hedge. When I went back to Holly Hedge to give the money I looked for Lucy but she wasn't there because she had a new home. So, raise money for HOLLY HEDGE, so you can help cats and Dogs have loving homes.

*By Belle age 8.*



# Pussies galore

**Holly Hedge have 66 kittens and 29 adult cats looking for caring, responsible owners.**



This year has been one of the worst so far, with stray pregnant cats being brought to Holly Hedge from early March. Some have come in very underweight and needing veterinary treatment, but at least their babies have been born where their mums have all the TLC they need to bring up their kittens in a safe and caring environment. One thing's for sure, all mums will be spayed before they go to their new homes to prevent more unwanted kittens.

Today we took in another stray cat who turned up heavily pregnant in someone's garden and had 4 kittens 6 weeks ago. She is now pregnant again, but is in a clean, cosy cattery with food readily available, and need no longer fear for the safety of her offspring or where her next meal is coming from. We have received so many calls from public reporting stray mums and kittens, some crying at people's doors desperate for food.



We never turn away pregnant or nursing mums as they are so vulnerable. This year we have had to ask for foster homes to accommodate these poor little mites until Holly Hedge has had the space to take them in. If they are left to fend for themselves, they are at risk of being killed by predators (including the human variety)! Also this is how feral colonies come about, and so the vicious circle continues. Kittens who are not old enough to be weaned have been found dumped and half dead, some too far gone

to be saved. Recently an emaciated little cat was brought in covered in maggots, and was nuzzling staff and purring, so pleased to be in safe hands. She was taken straight to our vet who could do nothing for her as the maggots had eaten in to her internal organs – she was put to sleep, and it was heartbreaking.



Only a few weeks ago we had a little dog brought into us, also emaciated and crawling with maggots. Luckily he survived and is now thriving in his new home.

Most of our 'tails' have happy endings, but there are those that are sometimes beyond help, and that is hard to come to terms with.

But right now we are looking for loving homes for 95 cats and kittens, and 35 dogs and puppies, and have a waiting list of over 100 animals needing help.

**Foster homes** are also desperately needed for dogs and cats, who are finding it stressful being in a kennel/cattery situation, especially if they are elderly.

**If anyone can offer a loving home, or can foster on a temporary basis please contact**

**Holly Hedge on  
01275 474719 or email  
info@hollyhedge.org.uk**



# HERO DOG

This story has a really lovely happy ending thanks to Ian, Alex and of course Fizz, aka Rocky when he was at Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary.

Fizz was brought to Holly Hedge on the day he was due to be put down after his seven days were up at a council run dog pound.

Not only is this a beautiful story, but is an accolade for Staffies who are one of the most maligned and unwanted dogs, and all rescues are full of them. It just goes to show how wonderful Staffies are in the right hands, and is testament to their loving and loyal nature.

I sincerely hope that this brilliant article brings a ray of hope to the hundreds of Staffies patiently awaiting caring homes in animal shelters everywhere.



Fizz and family

I thought you'd be interested in an amazing tale about our Staffy Cross, Fizz (formerly Rocky), adopted from you in late December 2010. It might be of use to you as timely PR / media fare: ie. exemplifying the wonderful character of some of your rescued animals and not least the oft-misjudged Staffy Crosses you routinely receive at the shelter! Since we adopted Fizz, he's been walked daily and most regularly at the Ashton Court Estate. His boundless energy and enthusiasm has enthralled us; equally, he's grown extremely close to Tila - my partner Alexandra's (Alex) gorgeous little Chihuahua cross - such that they're now an inseparable pair who get up to all manner of mischief. Fizz has a wonderful disposition, much as was recognised by your staff whilst in your care as Rocky.

His amazing character was proven beyond doubt yesterday...

On 14 January, a walker lost a pair of female Shih Tzu's, Honey and Poppette, as they roamed on the estate. Subsequently, efforts were made through DogLost.com (and indeed to your sanctuary) to publicise their loss and leaflets/ posters were placed widely around Ashton Court to focus search effort amongst other dog owners visiting there. We also became aware of their plight on a walk with Fizz and Tila the following day.

Then, on 17 January - as we walked our pair alongside woodland in the northern boundary of the Deer Park - Fizz spotted something. He bolted off, upon which we saw a small, fawn-coloured and rather bedraggled-looking dog quickly appear from undergrowth, only to then vanish quickly back into brambles and woodland. Alex and I were in no doubt that we'd just seen Honey - one of the missing Shih Tzu's. With Fizz and Tila's help, we scoured the area for some

2 hours, having called the owner to attend and assist...

But to no avail. There was no trace of the cryptic missing pooch! We were very frustrated.

Days passed. Every morning, for at least an hour, Alex and I returned with Fizz and Tila to search diligently for Honey. Her companion, Poppette, was fortuitously found elsewhere in the Estate and safely returned home... but Honey was nowhere to be seen.

Innumerable messages passed to-and-fro between those searching for her.

We were very worried for her welfare. As cold, wet days came and went - coupled to some much colder nights (-5C on some occasions) - we would return to the comfort of home and wonder about her, lost out in the elements, alone and facing the foxes, badgers and other perils we'd seen on our walks. In honesty, we progressively feared the worst for her, but never gave up hope. Fizz and Tila continued as 'dog detectives' every day, scouring the woods, brambles and un-trodden undergrowth with considerable effort and gusto. Every chased squirrel was a false alarm; every crackle we heard on the carpet of fallen leaves offered a short-lived moment of hope...but nothing more substantive.

Then, yesterday, 27 January, we walked again.

Exactly 10 days and nights had passed since we'd glimpsed Honey - ours had been the only sighting reported since she'd vanished. Undeterred, we walked again around the north of the park and this time, Fizz's behaviour was distinctly different. He was purposeful; driven; clearly on a mission. We knew something was up.

Our walk was nearing it's end. As we emerged from woods, aiming to head back to our car, Fizz

refused to follow. He seemed insistent on heading off another way, so we followed. Moments later - in an area bordered by dense undergrowth and ponds - he started charging to-and-fro in a frantic, highly-energised manner we'd never witnessed before. Then, suddenly, he raced into the brambles... And we followed.

As Alex caught up with him, there - crouched entangled in thorns; utterly bedraggled, thin; her eyes firmly closed and temporarily blinded by ulcers - was Honey. She growled; then went still. She was found - and she knew it. Her demeanour swiftly changed; she willingly accepted Alex's warm jacket interior to be cradled as a carry-cot, and finally we had her safe. Fizz, meanwhile, was clearly very proud of himself!

Shortly after some frantic calls, her owner met us and she was whisked-away to the vet. She's now back home undergoing treatment for her eyes; spent last night asleep in front of a warm fire: finally safe and snug.

She's a lucky dog: her condition, not least the blindness, would have quickly conspired to finish her as she had lost any ability to drink, eat or defend herself against predators and scavengers. There's no doubt that after close to two weeks missing and alone, she'd have not survived much longer. It's no exaggeration to say that this little dog owes her life to Fizz; how ironic that a rescued Staffy - himself once close to being euthanased prior to arriving into Holly Hedge's care - has directly resulted in the rescue and survival of another dog.

In short, he's our hero. We're very proud of him!

*With our very best wishes  
Ian and Alex (and Fizz and Tila)*







# Life saver!

## Blossom

Blossom, a beautiful Rottweiler x came to Holly Hedge at 11 months old. This sweet natured dog had at least three different homes in her short life – in her last home she was roaming the streets, and got knocked down by a car. Luckily her injuries were superficial, and she ended up with us for rehoming. It took seven months to find her the right home, which really surprised us as we couldn't fault her temperament - she was so loving and well adjusted in spite of her traumatic past. Finally, Blossom had found her 'forever' home.

■ We were lucky enough to adopt Blossom in March 2009, she had been at Holly Hedge for over 7 months so was one of their long stayers, we couldn't understand why as she was such a beautiful dog but she was half Rottweiler and we think that put a lot of people off.

■ We were looking for a dog that could withstand us and our lifestyle, so we needed a robust dog with lots of energy and we wanted one with personality! Well, we got one. The first time we took Blossom for a walk in the woods at Holly Hedge she picked up a stick bigger than her (well a fallen tree really) and tried to drag it along with us, tail wagging furiously, my husband looked at me with a grin on his face and said 'she's coming home with us', and that was that, we knew we had found our dog!

■ Blossom is a lovely dog, full of life and fun, she is a bit of an oaf around the house and can be a bit clumsy but that just means she fits in well with the rest of us! The cats take no nonsense from her and have had her quivering in corners on more than one occasion, and our little 10 month old girl Lyra is also now giving her a run for her money, although Blossom puts up with a lot as Lyra is a very reliable source of food!

■ We think that Blossom is a rottie crossed with a lab as she is food obsessed.....it does mean she'll steal food off the side if you leave it within reach, but also means she is pretty easy to train. She will do anything for food, and is forever sitting for people in the park looking up at them with her chocolate brown eyes in the hope of getting a treat!

■ As well as being a lovely cheeky character she is also a hero! Not long after getting her we took her on holiday to the seaside, after a week of good weather we had a day of torrential rain and wind, so we decided to take Blossom for a walk on a pebble beach, we were walking along in gale force winds and Blossom stopped and stuck her head down in between some boulders in the sea wall, we kept calling

■ her but she refused to come, we assumed she could just see some food! My husband went back to get her and looked down to see two tiny dogs quivering at the bottom of the rocks, the tide was coming in and the rain was lashing down and they probably would have lasted another couple of hours at the most. Dan managed to get them out and we gave them some treats and some fuss, we thought we would have a problem getting them to come with us but they followed us and Blossom happily. Blossom wasn't too amused by the new additions though as they were quite yappy! After some food and drink, a towel dry and a bit of love we called the dog warden who assured us that they had a no kill policy and then we handed the lovely little dogs over. They went to the Dogs Trust and I am sure were snapped up in no time.

■ Had it not been for our lovely dog we are sure that Yappy and Scrappy would have suffered a really terrible end. It really goes to show that you can't judge a book by its cover, our rottie really is a wonderful addition to our family.....even if she does nick my biscuits!

*Ellie, Dan, Lyra & Blossom*

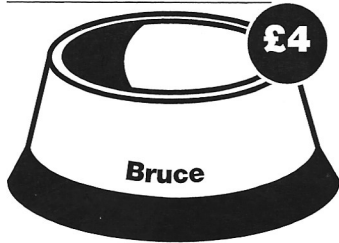




# Christmas dinners!

Just £1 will pay for a good meal for one cat or small dog at Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary. Please help us fill our "begging bowls" by asking friends, colleagues, family or workmates to fill in as many bowls as they wish with a donation of either £1, £2, £3, £4 or £5 so that all our rescues have extra special food and happy tummies during the festive season!

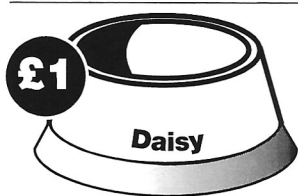
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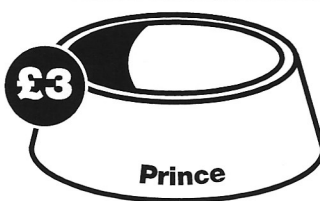
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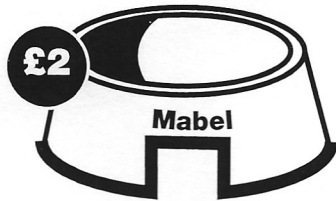
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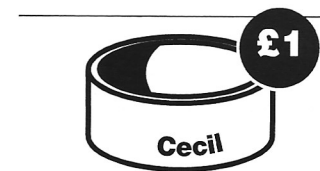
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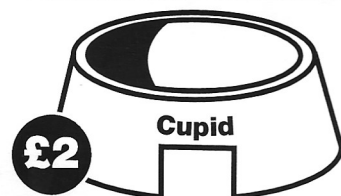
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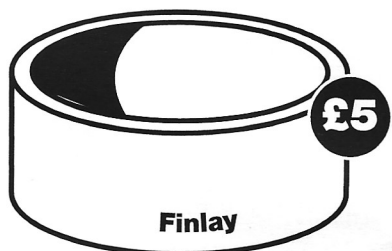
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This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



**YES, I want to help the animals at Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary.**

**I enclose a donation of £** \_\_\_\_\_ **to fill** \_\_\_\_\_ **bowls**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your donation and this page to: **Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary, Wild Country Lane, Barrow Gurney, Bristol BS48 3SE.** Cheques should be made payable to "Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary".





## Stanley, A Little Survivor

On Tuesday, 10th August a dear little Jack Russell x was brought into reception by a concerned gentleman who had found him by the Pavillion car park on the A38.

The poor little mite was emaciated, dehydrated and covered in live maggots, and was in total shut down mode. Staff immediately showered him off to remove the maggots and wrapped him in a warm towel to dry him off before taking him to the vet. When the towel was unfolded there were loads more maggots, some still crawling out from the wounds in his side – it was awful. We took him straight to Vale Vets at Portishead, who confirmed that he was also anaemic, had a low temperature and was very poorly. We were worried the maggots might have eaten into his internal organs, as Richard Bragg the vet said if this was the case, they wouldn't be able to save him. We left him in capable hands to do everything they could for him. He stayed at the vets for 2 nights, then we got a call to say he was much brighter, eating well and was ready to be collected. We were all so pleased, and so grateful to Sean and Chris, the kind gentlemen who took the trouble to rescue him, regardless of him crawling in maggots. Had they not done so, Stanley would surely have died.

This "tail" had a very happy ending, as Chris was smitten with Stanley's sweet nature, in spite of the condition he was in and couldn't wait to adopt him.

Over to Chris for an update:

After finding Stanley in the shocked state he was in, we did think he would never be like a normal dog again...luckily we were proved wrong !!

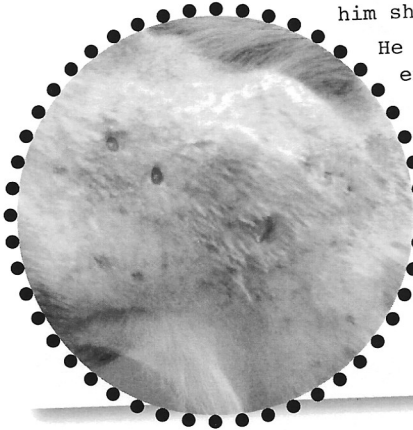
The first few weeks he was very clingy and wouldn't go outside in the garden on his own, wouldn't eat any treats or play with his toys. He just didn't have any spirit

How different he is now!

Stan is a fitting fit bundle of energy who loves nothing more than digging up 100 newly planted daffodil bulbs to plant his toys !! He did help us replant them though! He is a great little dog with a great character.

He loves to run out into the garden, back into the house, back to the garden each time bringing in a different toy to show us.

He will throw his toys in the air and run around trying to catch them. He will then run as fast as he can up and down the stairs barking and wagging his tail until someone watches him show off !!

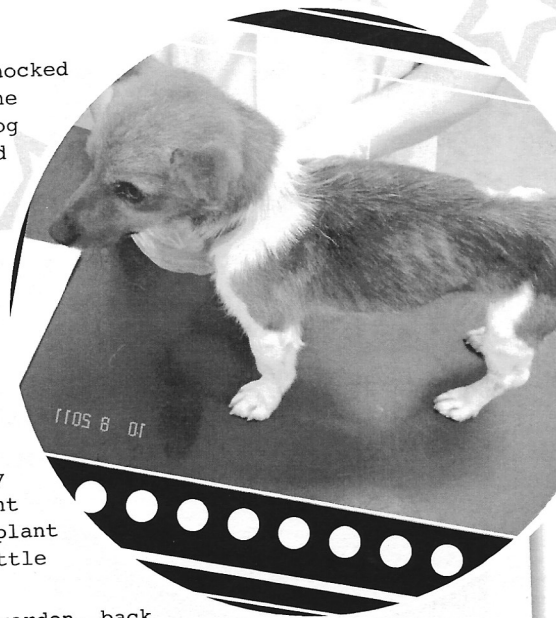


He also loves his walks and gets very excited when he knows he about to go out.

He's become a real family pet and greets us all by dancing on his hind legs wanting to be picked up and fussed. It's hard to believe he is the same dog to be honest.

A huge thank you to all at HollyHedge who saved him.

Chris



## THE WHEELS PROJECT

A huge thank you to David Glossop and his team for presenting Holly Hedge with an ex-Police Dog estate car they had reconditioned to transport our rescued dogs and cats. This has been so helpful to the Charity, and has meant we have had an extra vehicle for emergencies when the Animal Ambulance is already in use – also when we only have 1 or 2 animals to take to the vets it has proved very useful as it is more economical to use, and we truly appreciate their kind gesture.



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# FUN DAY 2011

## ASHTON COURT

Everyone at Holly hedge would like to say a huge thank you to all our friends and supporters who braved the elements to attend our **Family Fun Day on Sunday, 17th July.**

We got off to a late start as it was windy and pouring with rain, and stallholders couldn't get their goods out of their vehicles until it had subsided. Some just went back home in despair, others didn't turn up at all - and who could blame them! The Auction had to be abandoned half way through due to rain driving into the lorry. We are so grateful to the extremely professional Auctioneer who kept it going as long as he could, and did an excellent job regardless of the elements. We had already previously decided to make the Auction a separate event altogether, and hire a hall, which we will do in early Spring as we still have some very good items left. More news at a later date, so watch this space!

The rain did at least let up for the Dog Show and Dog Agility, and the sun actually put in an appearance. Lots of lovely dogs entered, including many Holly Hedge dogs which cheered us up immensely. It is so heartwarming to see our rescues happily settled with their owners.

**Ian Fergusson, BBC Weather Presenter**, and his partner **Alex Bressington**, judged the dog show, and did a brilliant job, (along with **hero dog Fizz** and his little friend **Tila**). We are extremely grateful to both of them for taking the time and trouble to support Holly Hedge, in spite of getting drenched in the process!

A huge thank you to **Malcolm Webb** and **his team** for brilliant agility displays and for putting the 'fun' into the Fun Day!

Our team of **fabulous fundraisers** did us proud as usual - come rain or shine they turn up trumps regardless, and we are so grateful for their hard work and unwavering support.

We raised **£6,200** in spite of the inclement weather which was a good result all things considered.

**Once again, our grateful thanks to everyone.**



**FUN DAY**  
**2012**  
Date to be  
announced soon.  
Watch this space!





# Holly & Mistletoe

Holly and Mistletoe were 2 of an unwanted litter, and came to us at 10 weeks old and quite timid.

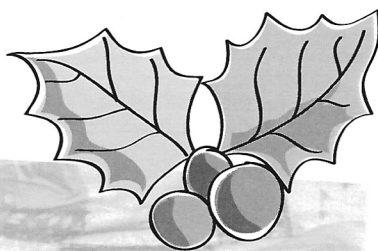
They were soon chosen by a lovely couple who had adopted previous animals from Holly Hedge, and as they were having a quiet Christmas, adopted these lucky kittens the week before – just in time for Christmas dinner!

"We thought we would write and send you all our greetings for Christmas. We think this is a good idea because we think of ourselves as Christmas kittens. Not that we were born at Christmas – we think we were born around October. Our Mum somehow disappeared but we didn't really miss her much 'cos we landed up in that nice place called Hollyhedge and that was a week or so before Christmas, so they called us Rudolf and Mistletoe! (Something about what humans do around Christmas time we think). But after a week we were beginning to get a bit bored with it – no mice to catch you see, and nowhere to go for the day – or the night! Anyway, our new Mum and Dad came along to see us a few days before Christmas and we really liked each other! I remember I wrapped myself round my new Mum's neck. I liked her smell and she seemed to like me and my brother liked our Dad especially. So they took us home! For some reason they didn't like my brother's name so they straight away called him Mistletoe and me Holly – seems to something to do with the greenery they put round the house at Christmas.

Well all that seems a long time ago – nearly a year now. We have been very happy here – the place is crawling with mice and voles and birds. We love our Mum and Dad very much, so try to bring them as many presents as we can – though they do behave a bit oddly sometimes and don't always thank us. From the start, we wanted them both to feel well cared for by us, so we decided to divide our attentions between them – I, Holly, always make the most fuss of Mum and sit on her lap and Mistletoe does the same with Dad. I think we've been making a pretty good job of making them feel happy and loved.

We both send our love to everyone for a very happy Christmas, with lots of turkey for everyone, especially for us. Bye Bye.


## Holly and Mistletoe



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## Thank yous

Sincere thanks to **Paul Fryer** and family for fostering tiny kittens for us and giving them lots of individual attention and nurturing until they were strong and healthy enough to be rehomed.

Grateful thanks to **Alix and Luke Dyer** for fostering mum and kittens until we had space at Holly Hedge. This helped a really desperate situation as there really was 'no room at the Inn', and we always prioritise pregnant and nursing mums and their babies as they are so vulnerable.

As always a big thank you to the extremely talented **Tania Taber** for creating another fantastic newsletter design and layout.

Heartfelt thanks to the **Ethical** team again for all their invaluable help this year. We were able to lease a charity shop, which has helped raise more awareness of our work and raised valuable funds. These projects have only been made possible through the kindness and generosity of the Ethical team and we are truly grateful for all their support and giving us hope for a brighter future.

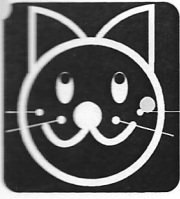
Sincere thanks to **Monty Halls and Reuben** for being such wonderful Ambassadors for Holly Hedge, in raising our profile, and for all their help and support during a very difficult time.

**Asda, Budgens, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, Roadchef M5, Yate Shopping Centre, Bath and North East Council and North Somerset Council** for allowing us to do collections.

Grateful thanks to **Kat Baker** who raises money for Holly Hedge through her sponsored swims including swimming the English Channel. A tremendous achievement.

And as always many, many thanks to **everyone** who's helped us in any way – it truly is very much appreciated.





# Happy Cat Tails

## Simba

Simba came to us heavily pregnant, and gave birth to 5 kittens 4 days later. She was such a lovely mum, and when Little May came in 3 weeks later at only a day old, she was the obvious choice to give her the best chance possible. Simba did her proud as you can see.

Simba is an absolute delight and a real character. She has settled in so brilliantly here, I simply cannot imagine our home without her. She is so chilled out and happy, as I write this she is curled up next to me on the sofa.

She is so affectionate (but can be nonchalant when she feels like it too!). Whenever I arrive home, we have cuddles and she licks my forehead and purrs her head off.

Each night, we go up to bed and Simba sleeps at our feet. At around 5.30am every morning, she jumps on my chest and purrs like a little engine. She gets her face as close as possible to mine, rubbing it, and continues to purr. I always smile at this, it's a lovely way to be woken up.

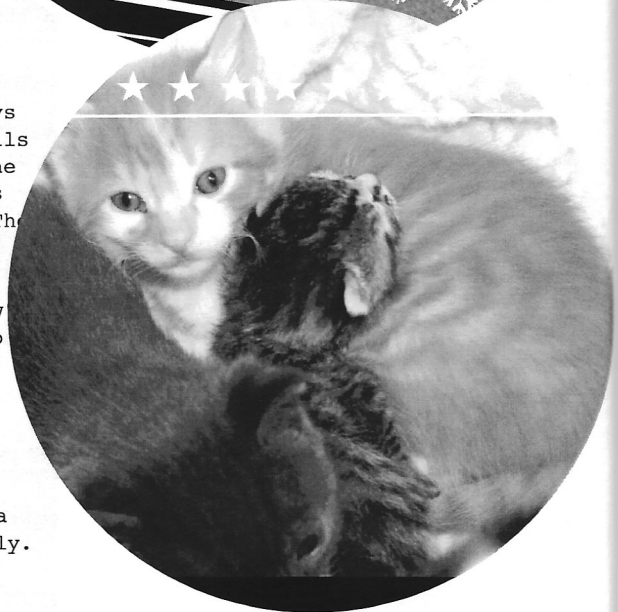
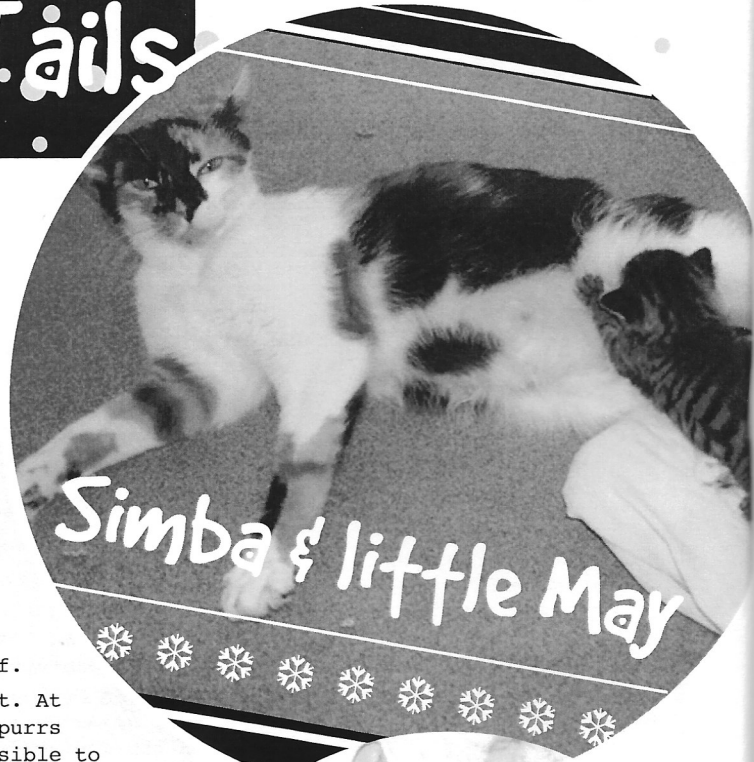
I have bought her many toys... But her absolute most favourite toys - and totally irresistible to her - are: a piece of string and balls of screwed up paper!! When I throw balls of paper onto the bed, she will chase them and pick them up and bring them back to us. She is also quite the footballer... and has very good dribbling skills! The funniest thing she does - and I dearly wish I had a photograph of this - is she carries my little teddy around in her mouth.

Her favourite place (aside from our bed!) is sitting on the window sill looking out at the world. She picks the places she's going to explore when she's outside. She is a brilliant tree-climber!

We introduced her to my Mum's dog, Ben (a Springer). We were a little worried that Simba might run away and hide. In fact we discovered she is a feisty little madam and it's the dog who was scared of her!

I cannot believe how so, so lucky we are. She's just perfect. It's a match made in heaven - Simba is a very welcome addition to our family.

Nicky x



## Thank yous



A belated thank you to **Tania** in the office for buying a Dog Trap for elusive dogs who had been straying a while and couldn't be caught.

Thank you to **Lorna Symons** for being so kind to Holly Hedge and raising money through offering reflexology, with all funds raised donated to us.

### Reflexology at Russetts

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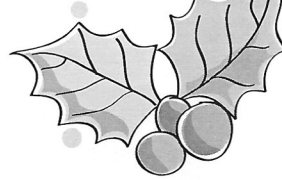
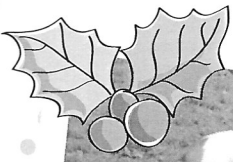
*Gift vouchers available*

## Thank you

Sincere thanks to our **dedicated dog walkers** and **cat cuddlers** for giving our rescues individual attention and that little bit extra that makes all the difference to them.

Thanks also to our **brilliant home checkers** who ensure our rescues find the right homes. **We couldn't do it without you!**





# Carrie

Carrie came in on 2nd April 2010 with her 4 one month old kittens she had given birth to in someone's porch. She was extremely nervous of people and hated being handled, and would protest by biting and scratching. Staff gradually made progress with her, and she would tolerate being stroked. Carrie was a great mother and raised her kittens well.

When her kittens had been found homes, and her milk dried up she was able to be spayed and have a much needed dental, having her teeth cleaned and polished and 6 removed.

We spent 8 months hoping Carrie would accept human beings as friends and not the enemy, but she was still reluctant to be handled. Being 4 to 5 years old, she was obviously quite set in her ways. We had to make a decision to either home Carrie at a farm or stables where someone could keep an eye on her but allow her to continue living as a feral cat, or give her one more chance by homing her with one of our fosterers. We chose the latter and Carrie went to a foster home. Thanks to Justine, she has now become a very loving lap cat.

Thanks to **David** and **Sandy** who make it their life's work to help Holly Hedge dogs like Fudge by taking them on socialisation walks outside the sanctuary to give them the best chance possible of finding the right home.

## Heartfelt plea for Fudge, aged 3

Fudge is the most loving and adorable boy anyone could wish for – his only problem is that he does not like other dogs. This is because he was attacked by another dog when he was a small puppy and he's never forgotten it. Fudge is such a people dog, and kennel life is getting him down. He has become so depressed seeing our other rescues come and go, when he is always passed by. Now he just looks out sucking his blanket for comfort. However much we care for him, we can't compensate for a loving home, and our hearts go out to him.

His sad eyes, still full of hope that one day he will be chosen, and the 'reserved' sign will at long last be on his kennel door - but after being at HH for a year, he has had no luck! Fudge needs a home environment where his life can begin again, so until that day comes a foster home would be good. HH will give every support if Fudge can be given a chance of happiness once more. If anyone can help, please, please contact Holly Hedge.

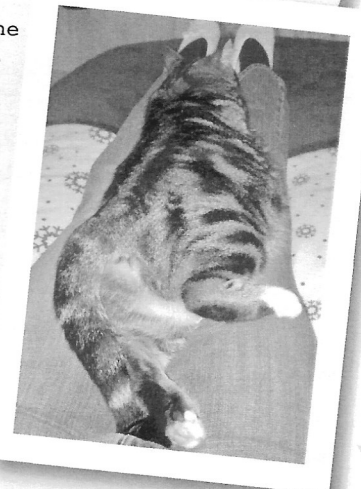
I fostered Carrie in October 2010. She was very feral and practically spent the first 4 to 6 weeks here living on a chair under the kitchen table, growling and hissing at me. She then started to walk around the house at night and found the spare bed which she took a fancy to. Slowly I managed to get closer and closer to her – it took a long time, a lot of patience, love, and NEVER pushing her before she was ready. By Carrie's reactions I am sure people have been cruel to her in the past, so gaining her trust was never going to be easy.

It's great to now be able to tell you Carrie is becoming more and more domesticated these days - in fact she does everything a domesticated cat would except she is still unsure about letting me pick her up. Only this week when I came home one day she was waiting for me on the stairs, as if to say 'where have you been'. I guess she has decided having food and drink on tap, freedom to go outside, a bed to lie on, toys to play with, a lap to sit on, and lots of cuddles, isn't such a bad life after all and a preferred one to living outside and defending for herself. She still fears other people - but we are working on it.

Earlier this year in July I officially adopted Carrie. We had developed such a bond with each other I couldn't bear the thought of giving her back and life without her.

If you are a patient person, have time and lots of love to give, take a chance on a feral cat, the rewards are so high, and I believe the bond between you and that cat will be a very strong one.

Justine



## Thank you

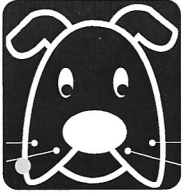
Heartfelt thanks to **Tracey** and **James** of **The Flyer** magazine for promoting our rescues and forthcoming events. Through advertising the plight of our rescues, lots of forever homes have been found for our four legged friends.

## Charity shop

Thanks to Claire, our Shop Manager, and her brilliant team of volunteers, and to Zelah, our fantastic window dresser who makes the shop window look so spectacular and inviting. Heartfelt thanks to everyone for all your efforts in making the shop a great success and an asset to Holly Hedge.







# Happy Dog Tails

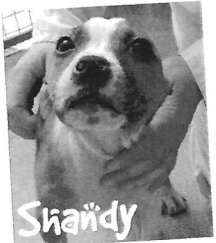
## Shandy and George

As most people are aware, the credit crunch is having a devastating impact on charities. Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary is no exception, and is struggling to cope with the increasing number of animals needing veterinary treatment.

Last year we took in two five month old puppies. They arrived on 22nd May crammed in a very small crate, their tiny bodies covered in mange, and they felt red hot to the touch. The male weighed in at 3.70kg and the female 5.17k. The little male has a 'cherry' eye and his back legs were bowed and rickety. His breathing was laboured, and Richard Bragg of Vale vets. diagnosed a guarded prognosis.

Both were malnourished, and looked more like eight week old puppies, - two sorry little sights who had the misfortune of a very bad start in life. A kennel was no place for these poorly puppies as they were fighting over food and affection, and needed so much individual attention and nurturing. The male who was called Lucky (not really appropriate) so we renamed him George, needed a costly operation on his 'cherry' eye once he was nursed back to health as this caused him some discomfort. Foster homes were found for both these little mites, and they began to thrive - but medical treatment was ongoing. They still needed antibiotics, and weekly baths, and the vet diligently monitored their progress. The stench of mange became less pungent and their characters began to surface, but there was still a long way to go. Three weeks, and 3 days later Kush weighed in at 6.15kg and George at 5.7kg, which was a vast improvement. They were definitely on the mend with all the care lavished upon them by their foster carers - we were all so relieved.

We do everything in our power to give all our rescues the best possible chance of a happy and brighter future - that is the purpose of Holly Hedge and why we exist, and why it is so important we continue to provide a safe haven for so many animals in need of help.



Shandy

Shandy had a very bad start in life and was very poorly when we first fostered her. We welcomed her into our family and she settled really well, it's like we have always had her. She

is a fantastic family dog, and loves her cuddles and long walks. She adores my children and follows them everywhere, and enjoys joining in with my younger daughters games. Shandy is very good with other animals, we have Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, a Cat and Horses. She likes to come out with us when we ride the horses, and gets on well with them too.

If I was looking for another dog it would definitely be another Staffie as they truly are great family dogs. Shandy has brought us so much joy, and we wouldn't be without her.

Tina, Rich, Emily and Lily



Shandy



George



George

When we first saw Lucky (who we renamed George as he had obviously had no luck at all in his short life) at Holly Hedge, we couldn't believe the terrible state he was in, and we knew we had to take him home no matter what. Poor George was a nervous and physically wrecked, scared of everything. We were a little concerned that Chloe our existing Staffie may not accept him, but we needn't have worried. From day 1 she mothered him, washed him, fed him food from her mouth, and showed him how to play, allowing him to take her toys and steal her chews - even though he had his own. She would lie with him in her bed or on the sofa, and became his guardian angel.

He had to have weekly baths to cure his mange, and eye drops daily, and he took it all in his stride.

George needed an operation to remove his 'cherry eye', and the vet's and veterinary nurses thought he was amazing as he was so good for them even though it was painful for him. He was also diagnosed with entropion, inrolling of the eye lids, which was starting to cause him a lot of discomfort, so two more operations were booked in for one eye at a time. Poor little soul had been through so much already, it was hard to accept there was more upheaval to come. Each time he was left at the vet's Chloe would mope around and not eat until he was back home. He may still need a further operation on his eyes, but at the moment they seem ok.

George has come a long way from the frightened, poorly little scrap he used to be, has learnt to do all the mischievous things normal puppies do, like chewing the chair legs and running off with Ryans toys!! He now has a beautiful shiny coat, is full of beans, and has grown quite a lot. He follows my 6 year old son around everywhere, and likes nothing better than to cuddle up on the sofa with all of us. With lots of love, patience and medical treatment, George has a new lease of life.

Yvette, Barry, Ryan & Mummy Chloe

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS!



**Friday 17 February 2012**  
**at Long Ashton**  
**Village Hall: 7.30pm-11.30pm**

*Bar*

*Raffle*

*Prize for  
best 80s  
dress!*

**Tickets:**

*£5 in  
advance  
or £6 on  
the door*

## AUCTION EVENING

at **Shipham Village Hall, Shipham**, on  
**Friday May 25th 7pm until 11pm**

**Lots of good quality items to bid for.**  
**Come along and have a glass of wine**  
**and nibbles – too good to miss!**

## *Plant Sale & Garden Party*

**12 & 13 May 2012**

**Tombola, raffle, homemade cakes & jams**  
**Society House, Knowle Lane, Shepton Mallet**  
**Tel: 01749 343906**

### *Wendy Morris*

At the charity's October Annual General Meeting, Wendy Morris resigned, due to ill health, after 18 years as a Trustee and committee member. The chair thanked her for her years of service to the committee during which time she has made a valuable contribution to many interesting discussions and has seen some varied and challenging times for the charity. Wendy will be greatly missed by her committee colleagues.



## *Thank yous*

Heartfelt thanks to **Enid and Michael** for their kind donation of a large climbing frame for our cat garden. This keeps our rescued felines amused and entertained when they take turns to venture outside and run around to their hearts content. These lovely people have also helped us enormously by contributing towards vet bills for cats needing expensive operations, and we are so grateful for their kindness. Also **Enid** volunteers in the office on a weekly basis, and has become an integral part of our team - we are very lucky to have found her.

Sincere thanks to **Chris Dodd** for volunteering in our office every Tuesday, for which we are so grateful, and for all her help with fundraising, along with her friend **Denise**.

Thanks so much to **Nikki Leeson** who has been such a great help volunteering in the office, as well as being a cat cuddler and dog walker. Nikki also helps out on numerous fundraising events and we really appreciate everything she does for Holly Hedge.

**Jolley's Pet Supplies, Aarons' Pets, Posh Pets, Practically Everything, Warmley Tower Post Office and Richard at Portishead Pet and Garden Centre** for collecting and donating food for us.

**Nicola Bendall & Dianne Stephens** for all their hard work fundraising and keeping our storeroom in order.

**Barbara**, in spite of having had 3 major operations, she is still making plumpious dog and cat beds for Holly Hedge. An amazing lady!

**Cherry** for her beautiful handmade cards even though she has not been well.

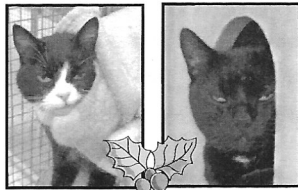
Grateful thanks to **Janet Temperton** and **friends** for all the hard work and effort put into fundraising for our rescues.

Thank you to our **current committee** who give Holly Hedge their time and unwavering support.



# With your help we can make their Christmas wishes come true

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



## Topsy & Lucy

Two Lovable older females seeking a

loving home together. Top of their Santa's wish list would be a cosy lap to have a nap and a warm cosy fire is just what they desire.



## Jess

Unwanted by her family, her beautiful coat had to be shaved as badly matted. Her Christmas wish would be a new family who will love her and have time to groom her.



## Max

This typical Border Collie, loves to be on the go all the time, he would love a country home this Christmas time.



## Mabel

Mabel doesn't want to live in a stable. She would love to sit by your table and share your turkey if she is able.



## Bruce

Spruce up your Hoose, with our big old Bruce. When he's wearing his antlers he pretends he's a Moose!



## Beau

Would love to play, he may even pull your sleigh with Jingle Bells ringing you could be singing and playing with Beau in the snow!



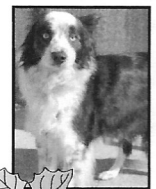
## Bart

Open your heart, give a home to Bart. This lovable playful lad is feeling very sad, he needs a new home so he's no longer alone.



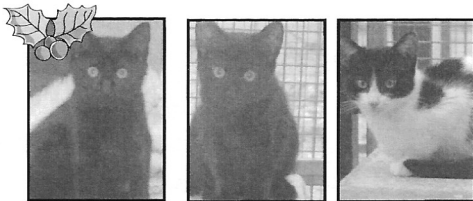
## Patch

Oh what a catch could he be your perfect match! Needs to be an only pet otherwise he gets upset.



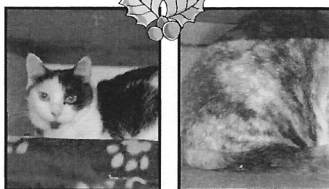
## Tia

Tinsel Tia, could this be her year to find this poor doggie a home? She loves to play and cuddle all day, hoping her new family is not too far away.



## Kelly, Beyonce & Michelle

Affectionately known as "Destinys Child". This "Super Group" would love to be part of a family. Kelly thinks that her and her two sisters certainly have the "X Factor" and if you met them you would agree.



## Princess & Queenie

Two gentle females. Arrived with several others due to their owner becoming very ill. They would love Santa to work his magic and find them a home together.



## Louis, Billy, Harry & Conran

Dear Santa "Claws". We are 4 semi feral kittens who had a bad start in life, we didn't meet many humans so we can be shy, can you ask your elves to work some magic and find us a home with people that can help us understand the world isn't scary.



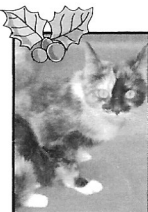
## Taffy

This sweet little white kitten is sadly deaf, Taffy has asked his "Fairy Cat Mother" to find him a loving family who live in a quiet area so he is able to go out and explore the big wide world safely.



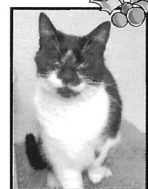
## Finlay

This big gentle giant is looking for a new home this Christmas. He would love to share your pudding and pies, a sneaky bit of cream would be his dream.



## Jewel

A young Tortie, Jewel has asked "Santa Paws" to find her a home as an only cat. She is very affectionate and enjoys lots of cuddles.



## Pumpkin

Has possibly been abused in a previous home, can be very loving, but needs time to gain trust again. Top of her Christmas wish list is a nice quiet home and some catnip

toys would be a "purr-fect" start to a new life for Pumpkin.



## Cecil

Sweet old chap brought in in poor condition looking for a special foster home with lots of love and TLC.

Spare a thought for all the homeless animals, not just at Holly Hedge, but throughout the world. With your help, we can make their Christmas wishes come true.

If you would like to support Holly Hedge please use this great search engine, [everyclick.com](http://everyclick.com), which raises money for charity every time you search the web. It won't cost you a penny, but will help raise money for Holly Hedge once you have chosen your charity!

[www.everyclick.com/hollyhedgeanimalsanctuary](http://www.everyclick.com/hollyhedgeanimalsanctuary)

Wild Country Lane, Barrow Gurney, Bristol BS48 3SE. Tel: 01275 474719 • Registered Charity Number: 294606

