

# HOLLY HEDGE Newsletter

SUMMER 2010 ISSUE



Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future

## The Magic of Merlin

**Merlin** arrived at Holly Hedge along with nine other cats, all of whom had been living in a shed inside dog cages. When we initially checked Merlin over it was obvious that he was having problems with his ears. The skin on both was thickened causing a slight "cauliflower" look and both ears were very sore, hot to the touch and full of brown discharge. Our vet was immediately concerned and started him on ear drops. Although poor Merlin must have been in a lot of pain he allowed us to gently clean his ears and administer the drops. Merlin also needed a dental and so our vet decided this would be a good chance to examine his ears fully.

The news was not good, poor Merlin's ear canal was so scarred and narrowed from chronic ear infections that external cleaning and ear drops could no longer help. He needed a bi-lateral total ear canal ablation, a surgical procedure where all the diseased tissue: the entire ear canal, bones of the middle ear etc. are removed, the middle ear is drained, and the healthy tissue around the ear is closed. This sounded drastic but would end Merlin's long tribulation of pain. At £1000 it wasn't cheap but needed to be done.

A few weeks later, after some fund-raising, Merlin went off to the specialist for his operation. Happily for him, he only needed one ear done and although the vet said it would take between 4-6 weeks for him to recover fully (with a few unpleasant side effects) Merlin recovered well. He looked quite odd with his ear hole all stitched up and all his fur shaved on one side of his neck, but he was a very good patient. He enjoyed all the extra T.L.C. from staff and volunteers and was a very popular boy.

He is now lucky enough to have been adopted by Caroline and her husband and is living a very privileged life!

We just wanted to say a big thank you for our two latest cats from Holly Hedge. A couple of months ago we took Patch, our sweet black and white cat, who, although about nine years old, is very petite and kitten-like.

It has been slow progress with Patch, him being one of the many cats Holly Hedge rescued from being kept in dog crates in a shed. Patch remains timid, although slowly builds in confidence as each day goes by. Patch gets on with other cats much better than he does humans, as he integrated very quickly with our original cat Vinnie.

A few weeks after taking Patch, we took another of the 'dog crated cats', Merlin, who is also about nine years of age. We were unsure of what reaction timid Patch would give when he saw Merlin, but it was so sweet, he came boldly out to meet Merlin, gave him a good sniff, and they actually looked pleased to see each other!

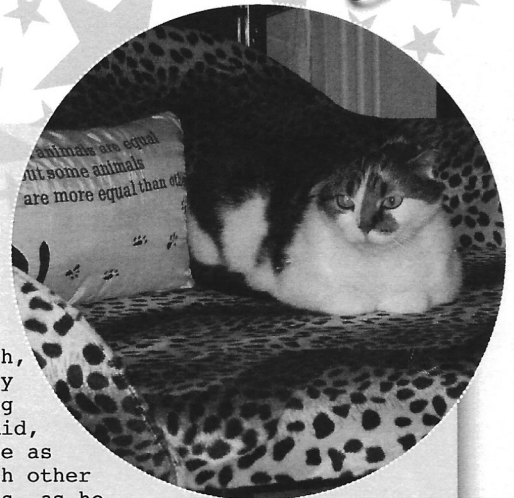
Merlin is still adapting to now being deaf in one ear, he frequently looks several times to see where any noise has come from, as this loss of hearing makes it difficult for him to work this out. Merlin does not like to be picked up, but this seems more because he just never had much human contact or perhaps love when he was younger. I should imagine that he coped by withdrawing into his own world when he was living in the shed, as he would have had very little to do, the poor thing.

He now spends most of his day just wandering about, investigating smells (especially food), and playing catch me if you can with Vinnie, our other cat. Merlin does also try to encourage me to chase him occasionally, he seems to think this is great fun.

One of the first things we bought for Merlin was a leopard print chaise longue, it was bespoke for his size as he is a large cat, and he loves it! He spends a lot of his time stretched out on his luxury chair.

So thank you Holly Hedge for coming to the rescue of these two troubled cats and giving them a second chance. My husband and I look forward to investing lots of time in making them feel comfortable in sharing our home, and watching their confidence grow. We love having them scampering about, and they certainly look very happy here.

*Lots of Love, Caroline Blackburn and family xxx*



## Monty's Mate

It was such a lucky day for Holly Hedge when **Monty Halls** walked into reception looking for a dog to take with him to Applecross in Scotland. It had to be a young, energetic, fun loving dog who was pretty much bomb proof and was happy to be around people, other dogs and livestock. One dog came to mind straight away - **Reuben**, a big, lolling German Shepherd with possibly a hint of Newfoundland in him. Well it was 'instant rapport', and after the preliminary home check, off went Reuben to bond with Monty before going off on a great adventure in the Scottish Highlands, which was only a few weeks away.

Everyone at Holly Hedge was filled with pride to watch this intrepid duo working together, and it was amazing to see how close they had become in such a short space of time.

When Monty returned to Bristol he was so pleased with his canine companion he offered to do a book signing evening and presentation about Applecross to raise money for Holly Hedge. £800 was raised which was brilliant, and Reuben undoubtedly captivated everyone's hearts.

Monty and Reuben went off on their travels again, this time to the Outer Hebrides in Scotland.

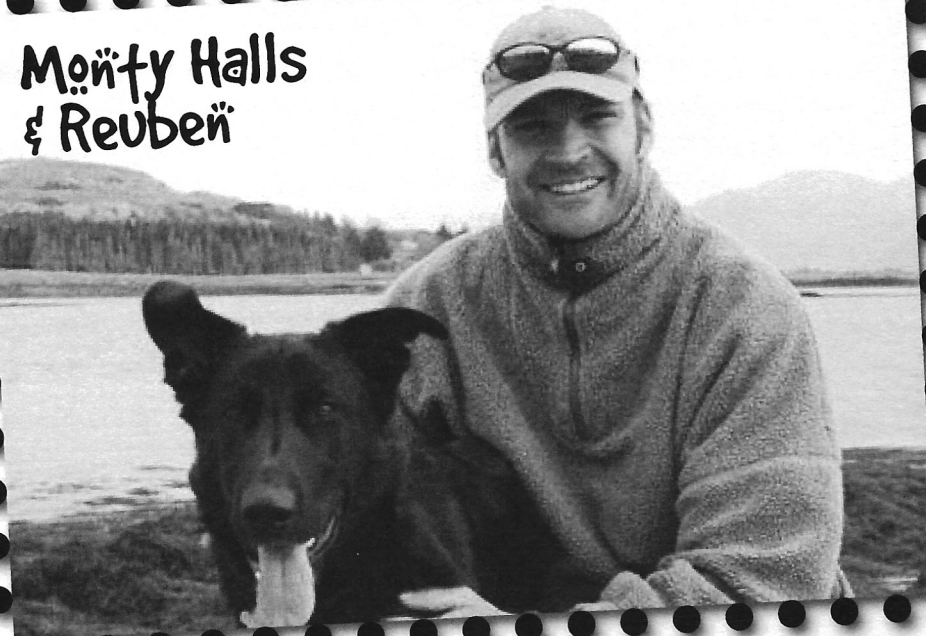
News reached Monty that the Sanctuary was in financial difficulty due to the current economic downturn, and he came to our rescue once again. Upon his return from the Great Hebridean Escape he held another evening to boost the coffers, this time at a bigger venue, and with guest speakers, **Martin Palethorpe**, the producer of *Great Escapes*, and **Glen Heal**, a local dog trainer. Clifton College Preparatory School Hall was packed with Monty and Reuben fans, and Holly Hedge supporters. Monty also organised a Charity Auction, and the evening raised £2,671.17 which was excellent, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone involved in making the evening so successful and memorable. To **Suze**, (Monty's PA), **Sam** and **Tracey** for all their help and organisational skills, **Martin** and **Glen** for giving superb presentations. As for the charismatic **Monty**, he had the audience captivated with his enthralling presentation of his and **Reuben's** adventures in Scotland - and what a brilliant auctioneer he made! He and his friends did Holly Hedge proud.

What can be said about Reuben? A real credit to Holly Hedge, a wonderful, adaptable, friendly boy with a personality to match his size, who loves everyone and is so contented with his life - and it shows. One man and his dog have nothing on these two.

Next year Monty has pledged to give another presentation on behalf of Holly Hedge, so watch this space. In the meantime the two of them are off to Ireland filming another 'Great Escape'.

## Monty Halls & Reuben



# Holly Hedge Family Fun Day!



**SUNDAY 18 JULY 2010**

**10.30AM - 4.30PM**

**ASHTON COURT**

**(LONG ASHTON ENTRANCE, NEXT TO DOVECOTE)**

**Fun Dog Show!**

**at 12noon**



- Lots of stalls • Bouncy Castle
- Dog Agility Display • Children's Rides
- Charity Auction • Refreshments • Pet Photography

**Something for all the family!**

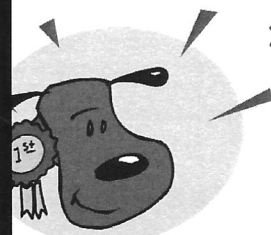
**Free entry and parking**

**For more information  
tel: 01275 474719**



**HOLLY HEDGE  
Animal Sanctuary**

Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future  
Registered Charity Number: 294606



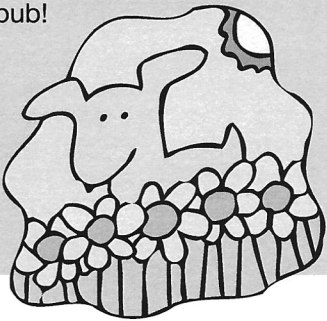
# Dog Photo Competition

We all think our dog is the best looking most photogenic dog in the world (mine is) so here's your chance to put their good looks to good use and show them off to everyone else. You could win yourself some great prizes, so get snapping!

There are 3 categories:

## 1) Dogs on Holiday

Your best holiday snaps, be they on the beach, on a walk or in the pub!



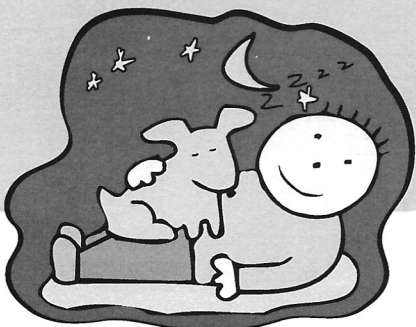
## 2) Dogs With Friends

Your dog with another furry friend – be they a dog, cat or goldfish (alright, I know goldfish aren't furry)



## 3) Sleeping Dogs

Your favourite pictures of your pooch relaxing.



## Prizes

The **WINNER** of each category will receive a **DOGGY GOODY BAG**.

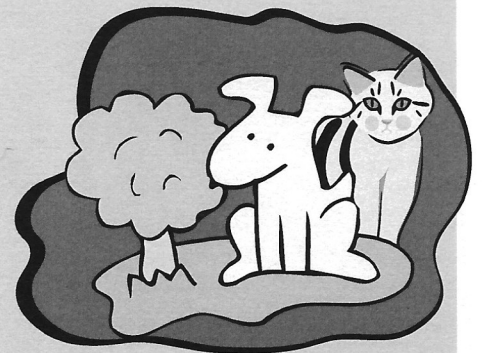
And then an **OVERALL WINNER** will be chosen to win first prize of a **pet portrait of their dog** by a local animal artist.

## How to enter

- Enter as many times as you like in as many different categories as you like.
- Entries cost **£1 per photo** and all proceeds go to Holly Hedge.
- Write the category you are entering, your dog's name and your name and a contact phone number lightly on the back of each photo.
- Place in an envelope marked Dog Photo Competition and either drop it into the sanctuary or send to **Holly Hedge Sanctuary, Wild Country Lane, Barrow Gurney, Bristol BS48 3SE**.
- Pay by cash or cheque (must be cheque if you're posting). Make cheques payable to **Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary**.
- Closing date for entries is **31st October 2010**. The winners will be chosen by celebrity judge **Monty Halls** and the winners notified before the end of November.

## Apology

Sorry cats, but we did run a cat photo competition several years ago, so it is the dogs' turn. However we may do another one for cats next year, so watch this space! Meanwhile snuggle up to a friendly pooch and you can sneak yourself into the "dogs with friends" category.





# Happy Dog Tails

## Blossom

Found straying, eager young Blossom was very excitable in kennels and so was overlooked for some time. To help focus her attention staff spent time every day training her and teaching her tricks. Blossom proved to be an able student and mastered "roll over" in a couple of days. We are delighted to see how happy she looks in her new home and especially proud to hear she has become a hero!

Blossom is lovely and we are really enjoying having her. She has had her moments, like chewing the TV remote control when she first arrived, and throwing up next to us in the tent at 3am when we went camping for the weekend. But the pluses far outweigh the minuses.

But anyway, we thought you would like to hear about Blossom's latest story.

We were walking along the beach at Milford on Sea (New Forest) on a cold windy Tuesday of our holiday. Suddenly Blossom stared down into the base of the sea defences and refused to move.

When we went back to check what the fuss was about, she was pointing out that there was a terrier and her sixth month old pup stuck at the bottom of the defences being battered by the waves. We pulled them up to safety, fed them treats and took them to the vets for a check up. No owner in sight, no collars, no microchips. Classy way to get rid of two lovely dogs. They haven't been claimed yet, and will go up for re-homing after a week with the dog warden. New Forest have a non destruction policy. These are seriously cool dogs, they will be re-homed in a flash. Blossom rules.

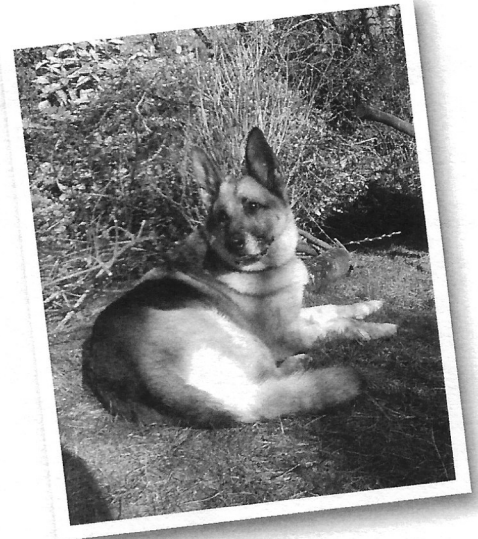
She's not a rescue dog, she's DOG RESCUE!!

Anyway, thanks for the great job you did looking after her, she's a credit to your hard work and compassion. **Dan & Ellie**



## Holly

Holly's owners emigrated and she found herself, aged 7, in kennels looking for a new home. Poor Holly was very confused and upset at first but eventually settled in. Luckily for her she caught the eye of Mark and Bryony and it definitely seems to have worked out extremely well for her!



Holly's settling in incredibly well and has got very attached to us already, particularly Mark, who she has singled out as pack leader!

We're having to keep a very close eye on her around other dogs, but have started some training which we hope will help with that.

We have one very happy Holly on our hands! Thank you so much Holly Hedge for homing her and finding her such a happy new home. We're all delighted!

With best regards,

**Bryony and Mark**

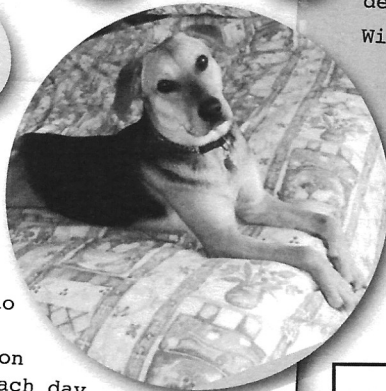
**Gypsy** is one of Kizzy's puppies (see opposite). Although the parents were happy, confident dogs, the pups were very nervous. It seemed they had never been on a lead, taken out and about and socialised before their trip to the boarding kennels. Her puppy ending is a tribute to the time, patience and love of her new owners.

Well, it's now nine months since we adopted Gypsy, who is now called Poppy, an adorable GSD/Beagle cross and we love her even more now than when she first came home with us at the end of September, if that's possible!

She has settled well with my son and me and has never had any problems in accepting Mike's disabilities. When she first met him, she took no notice at all of his sticks or wheelchair and loves nothing more than to play and roll around on the floor with him when he gets home from work each day, but seems to sense that it's not a good idea to launch herself at him and knock him off his feet.

Poppy is still quite wary of strangers, but is fine as long as she makes the first move. She has made great strides in self confidence and when we go for a walk along the river, she wants to say hello to everyone she meets and, as long as they are quiet, she wants to make friends; she has even started to enjoy playing with the other dogs in the parks - as long as they're not too big!

Yours sincerely **Caryll Huxley**



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## Kizzy

Happy-go-lucky Kizzy was abandoned at boarding kennels with her seven month old pups. Their owners took them there and never came back for them! The whole pack, Kizzy (Mum), Marley (Dad), and their 6 pups, all came to Holly Hedge and all have been successfully re-homed.

We adopted Kizzy from Holly Hedge in August and she is doing so well and is very happy in her new home. She is very affectionate and fun loving, quick to learn and has really made our move to Clevedon complete.

She has two good long walks a day, loves the beach, the woods and the park! Her favourite things are chasing sticks, chewing sticks, chasing squirrels and cats.

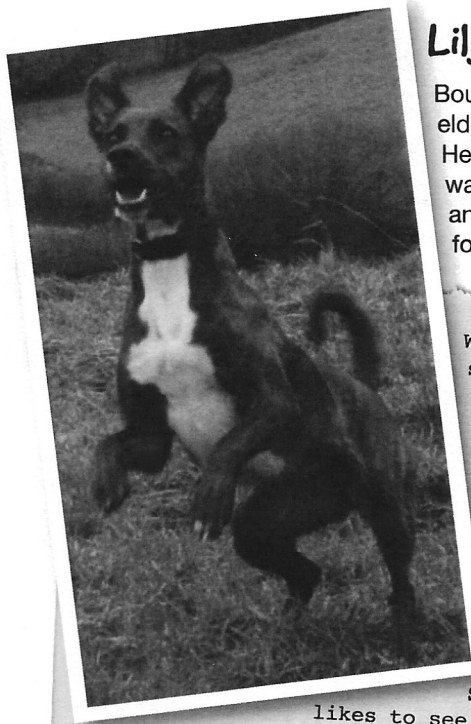
A typical dog really! She's made lots of doggy friends through obedience school and our walks, and regularly accompanies her Dad to the dog friendly local where everyone adores her.

We were very glad to see all her pups were adopted and hope they're all doing well. We think the one thing missing in Kizzy's life is another dog at home as she gets on with other dogs so well.

People are always commenting on what good condition she is in and how healthy she looks, we're chuffed!

Regards,

Michaela and  
Justin Buckland



## Lily

Bouncy young Lily was too lively for her elderly owner so she was brought to Holly Hedge for re-homing last year. Lily could be wary of new people but was full of energy and great fun! It's lovely to see she has found her perfect happy ending.

We have had Lily for five months now, she has bonded very well with us and is a very loving and happy girl. She loves her walks, especially when we take her ball and thrower. When she's out, her tail is proudly in the air unless she bumps into another dog, in which case she wraps it firmly under her bottom. It took her a little while to learn the rules of the house (she was used to sharing the bed I think) but she is fine now and sleeps downstairs in her basket in front of the log burner.

She's not too keen on strangers and likes to see them off the premises but we are working on that. The cat is firmly in charge, much to Lily's horror. Anyway, we're very glad to have her in our lives, she's a sweet and fun loving girl.

Thanks

Pandora and Matt



## Pip

Lovely, handsomely-scruffy Pip the Portuguese Podengo (check it out - it's a real breed!) was a delight to look after in kennels - even though he dug some impressively big holes in our exercise compounds! He came to us via another rescue centre and stayed longer than we thought he would so it's wonderful to see him so settled in his new home.

Pip is settling in very well.

We have been to dog training which he thought was great fun at first, then he decided that he has to do this at home so why do it here!

He loves his walks and is walking nicely on the lead.

He likes chasing the squirrels and rabbits but is getting better at coming back when called.

As you can see from the photo, he has made himself at home.

Thank you for letting us adopt him, he really is a pleasure to own.

Mrs C Weekes



## Biffo Henry

Handmade doggie coats (from £7.99 to £23.99) & doggie neckerchiefs, greetings cards, bunting & lots more...

Contact Tania: • M: 07989 945980 • E: puppy.henry@hotmail.com





# Happy Cat Tails

## Thank you!

Our rescue cats give their wholehearted approval to the cat play-station donated in memory of **Tash**, a Holly Hedge cat re-homed to **Mark and Lisa Rushin** at 12 years of age. Their generous donation also enabled us to purchase money boxes, which are placed on every cattery in the re-homing area, to boost our depleting funds. Thank you both for a very thoughtful gesture in Tash's memory.



## Poppy

Poppy's owner had loved her very much but sadly had to go into care. Poppy had been allowed to get very overweight and so she was on a strict diet for her entire seven month stay at Holly Hedge. Why she was at the sanctuary so long is a mystery as she is a real sweetie. Poppy was a real favourite with staff and volunteers and it's great to see she's found a wonderful home once more.

I picked Poppy up from Holly Hedge on 21st October 2009. I was very worried about how she would cope with her new home as she is not a young cat, she is approximately 9 years old.

My worries were short lived as I let Poppy out of the basket at my home. She went straight to her food bowl then had a drink and climbed up into my chair, which seems to be hers now!

It took some weeks before she would go out into her garden but now she loves it, never going outside her own boundary.

Poppy has been very good company for me and likes to climb up on my bed with me at night on her blanket.

If anyone is thinking of giving an older cat a home it is well worth it as Poppy is very loving and I love her.

Best regards

Lilian and Poppy

## Suri

This pretty little cat was found straying with an injured paw. Suri just loved to snuggle up on a warm lap but also knew her own mind and would give you a firm swipe if you did something that was not to her liking! She was at the sanctuary for 9 months so it is even more special to see her happy and settled in a new home.



Sukie (was Suri)

We had just lost our lovely boy Maxie, who was adopted by us as a stray, to mouth cancer. After a month we decided to visit Holly Hedge to see if we could offer a home to another needy cat.

We were introduced to Suri, a very pale biscuit and white female tabby. She had been there for nine months, being bypassed by every visitor, as she was described as having 'catitude'. We visited several times and got the occasional swipe with a paw and had to dodge a ready mouth.

We felt she deserved a chance and so home she came with us. She immediately made herself at home, despite us being told it could take days. However for a month we despaired, bites as we stroked her, legs grabbed as we walked by. We always waited for her to come to us. No sudden moves, plenty of food and a Feliway plug-in dispenser.

Now, three months on, she is a lovely companion; she can be spiky, but not often. But let her tell you-

"I'm called Sukie now and I like it and come when I am called.

I like sleeping on the bed, wandering around the garden, lying on my back in the sun with my legs stretched out. Going into the field and looking hopefully up a tree trunk, will I ever climb it? Watching TV on my Mum and Dad's laps and chasing birds I see on it. I see cows at the end of the garden but I just look. I follow my people all the time in case they go away.

If anyone can offer a home to a cat like me, please do. We are worth it and only get 'catitude' because we desperately want a home. This is my 'forever' home and I am sure I am staying".

Enid Cannard and Mike Gallop

## Bam Bam and Pebbles

This lovely pair of cats spent last Christmas at Holly Hedge due to a relationship break-up. They found a new home quickly and seem very content.



Bam Bam & Pebbles are doing really well.

They have settled really nicely into our family & we are all enjoying them.

We have decided not to change their names as Archie (our 2 yr old) has got used to their names & can already tell them apart.

Thank you Holly Hedge

Caroline Harris and family



## Ellie and Pippa

Ellie (formerly Girlie) and Pippa were two timid cats who came to the sanctuary when their owner's landlord said pets weren't allowed. It was over 6 months before someone saw past their shyness and took a chance on them.

Here is a photo of them on their favourite place - my bed!! They also love the conservatory and the garden in the summer when I'm out there, but do not wander from the garden.

Ellie is very friendly, she purrs a lot and loves a fuss, but Pippa is still timid and I think she always will be unless I have food in my hand!!

They are definitely here to stay without a doubt.

Sue Mullan



## Ben

Ben (formerly known as Thomas) was re-homed as a kitten back in January 2009. His Mum came to us as a pregnant stray. It's great to see him 18 months on and hear what a lovely life he has!

Hello, Ben here

I have been living with Mike and Julie for 18 months now. I have a lovely big garden to play in and have made friends with an old black cat called Sammy who lives two doors down. We have lots of fun running round the gardens.

As you can see from the photo, I have grown into a very handsome boy.

Lots of love

Ben Chard



## Trixie and Millie

These two beautiful cats found themselves in need of a new home earlier this year, when their owners bought a new puppy which left them living in the garage! Their stay with us was very short and they are now safe once more in a dog-free home.

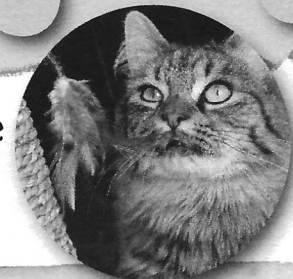


Trixi

Trixie and Millie were calm, purring and grooming within two hours of being home, lovely! They are very sociable cats and have met lots of new people, all relaxed and with ease. Trixie loves the blanket and sofa by the fire, whilst Millie prefers the fluffy carpet. They are truly lovely cats and thanks to the wonderful and welcoming Holly Hedge staff.

Tony

Millie



## YOUR SANCTUARY NEEDS

# YOU!

- Could you spare 2 hours a week on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday?
- Would you like to meet new people and make new friends?
- Do you fancy wearing a furry dog/cat costume? (optional)

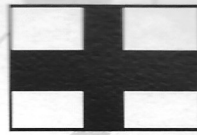
Improve your karma and increase your feelgood factor by knowing you've helped to raise vital funds to help needy animals.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who take part in supermarket collections across Bristol every weekend.

But we need every penny we can and desperately need more volunteers to help us collect. Please please please consider giving it a go.

Our fund-raising team are a friendly bunch and will welcome you with open arms. Any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Holly Hedge for more details.





## Spike

American Bulldog Spike is a bit of a lad, He's always up to mischief but he's not really bad!

When you watch the footie he'll sit and cheer, And when you're not looking, take a sip of your beer!



## Pickle

Pickle is a one-woman cat, She'll show your boyfriend the red card!

She needs a quiet, patient home. With time and love it won't be hard.



## Chico & Tia

Two gentle sharpeis you should get to know With a partnership to rival Rooney & Defoe

One-eyed Tia is practically blind Chico helps her out when she has things to find But Chico needs Tia for moral support One without the other is like a summer without sport.



## Daisy and Dora

These two stunning girls are typical footballers' wives. They'll stay near home and not roam far - they like to lead pampered lives.

But they don't need Prada or Gucci. Just a cosy lap, a cuddle and a smoochy!



## Kushdi

This friendly and happy dog Will fill your life with joy. She's happy having a cuddle or running around with a toy. She'll be happy if England win the cup

But if we lose she won't be sad So come along and snap her up If you don't you must be mad.



## Rolo and Kato

These are two handsome mid-fielders, cuter than Becks or Ashley Cole.

If you're lucky enough to take them home, you'll feel like you've scored a goal!

Both boys are easily stressed - they need a quiet home. With lots of love and cuddles and plenty of space to roam.



## Ellie

This sweet cat is a tiny bit shy, But soon gets to know you if you give it a try.

She's into football and plays a little,

But mostly likes a comfy lap on which to settle.



## Melody

Shy Melody is a timid girl, Much swifter than Peter Crouch, She's spent her first 3 years in a racing kennel,

And not known any love...or a couch.

To sit beside you and watch a match Would make her happy and proud Although you'll have to remember, Not to cheer too loud.



## Angel

Angel's great fun and loves to play.

Enjoys the "beautiful game" most of the day.

When not in training she loves to be,

Sitting in the garden under a tree.



## Floyd

This active young collie, will run and run all day,

His new home should be calm But with lots of walks and play.

Floyd loves to fetch a tennis ball,

To him it's such good fun,

He's not really into footie, but

He's looking forward to Wimbledon.



## Whiskey

Hot-headed, like Rooney, Whiskey can be,

It's because she's here and upset you see.

So come and bag this would be WAG,

Don't want to sound sappy, but it would make her very happy!



## Donut

Sweet Donut is calm and steady,

But when you bring out the ball she's always ready.

She needs a home that's quiet and gentle.

An occasional bone so she won't need a dental.

One or two owners, nice walks, games of catch.

If that sounds like you, you're her perfect match!

## Thank yous

Heartfelt thanks to the ETHICALL team for giving us another wonderful donation. It has enabled us to make the reception area bigger, so that people adopting our rescues can buy beds, food bowls, collars and leads from Holly Hedge rather than going elsewhere. Also we are in the process of leasing a charity shop, which we hope will not only be profitable, but raise more awareness of our work. These projects have only been made possible through the kindness and generosity of the Ethicall team and we are truly grateful for all their support and giving us hope for a brighter future.

Thanks to BRISTOL WATER for their very generous donation of £250 to enable us to buy more vet bed to ensure all our animals have warm, cosy beds during their time with us.

Also an apology to ANNA for stating in the last newsletter that her sponsored head shave raised £500, when in fact it raised a magnificent £1000. Well done again!

Thanks also to PORTISHEAD PET & GARDEN CENTRE and many other individual donators who generously gave raffle prizes for the 1940s evening in March.

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

More thank yous to follow in the Christmas newsletter.

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. Monty has kindly agreed to be one of our patrons along with the equally famous Reuben - so watch this space for Monty and Reuben merchandise.

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

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)

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