

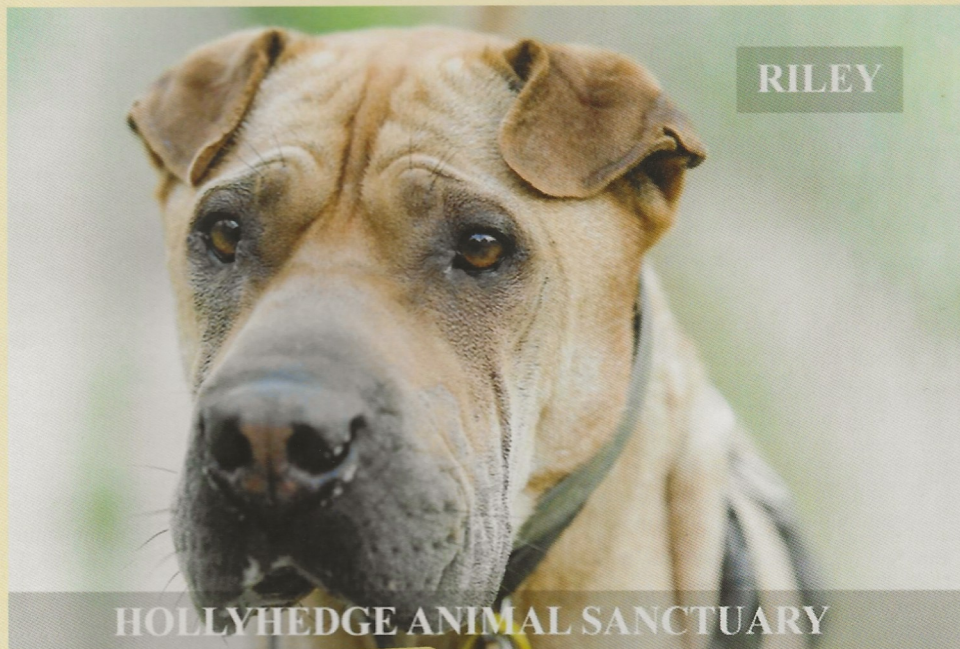
Holly Hedge

# NEWSletter

Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future



**HOLLY HEDGE**  
Animal Sanctuary



RILEY

HOLLYHEDGE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

## Riley's poem

Why am I still waiting?  
I can't believe it's true.  
I try to make the best of things,  
But deep down I feel blue.

So if you're kind and patient,  
Can you give me a new start?  
And help to mend the pieces,  
Of my sad and broken heart.

So won't you make me smile  
again  
With 'reserved' up on my door?  
And I promise I will love you,  
Now and ever more.



Our beloved **Riley** is looking for his perfect forever home. Riley originally came to us as his previous owner had to move and could not take Riley too. Riley used to live with another dog and they were inseparable, so it really has broken Riley's heart to find himself in kennels without his old pal. You can just see the sadness in his eyes. Riley would need a home with no children and no cats. He is okay with most dogs but any other dog living in the home would need to meet Riley first. Riley will need some ongoing training and a lot of reassurance as he has been through so much during the last few months. However, with the right amount of love and reassurance Riley's wonderful personality will shine through.

**Welcome to our Winter newsletter, jam-packed full of heartwarming stories and ways you can help Holly Hedge help more animals in need...**

winter 2014

**Wild Country Lane  
Barrow Gurney  
Bristol BS48 3SE**

**Tel: 01275 474719**

**[www.hollyhedge.org.uk](http://www.hollyhedge.org.uk)**

Reg charity No: 294606



## Anthony Head & Sarah Fisher

both passionate pioneers of animal welfare, who champion many causes to help animals in need, and are highly regarded for their good work with rescued animals, **will be opening the new kennels**. They are also Patrons of Holly Hedge and we are so privileged that they are taking time out of their very busy schedule to cut the ribbon and say a few words.





# BUILDING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

In the past year Holly Hedge have rehomed 166 dogs and 319 cats, 1 ferret, and 1 rabbit. We are in more demand than ever with kitten season being all year round and the numbers of both dogs and cats on our waiting list needing help has risen considerably.

## Home from home

Holly Hedge is once again in the throes of major building work to increase the comfort of our animals and improve working conditions for our devoted staff. Our existing dilapidated kennels have now been demolished to build new, much cosier kennels, where our rescued dogs will be housed in far nicer surroundings until their forever homes are found. This will incorporate a kitchen area where our rescues can hear (and smell) their food being prepared to make it seem a little more like home. The project should be completed, (hopefully) by Christmas. In the meantime 12 temporary kennels have been constructed which means during this time we will unfortunately be taking in 8 less dogs until completion of the new building. We have appealed for foster homes over this crucial time, but we still desperately need more to accommodate emergencies. This period will cause upheaval to both staff and our rescues, but the end product will be worth waiting for.

Once the new kennels are completed, building work will continue to transform our existing medical room, dog shower room, and grooming room into 3 good sized rooms with fencing around for our long term dogs' comfort. This will give a more 'homely' feel to their surroundings, will be much cosier and also be spacious enough for them to have their own settees.

Our existing kitchen/prep room area will then be converted into a veterinary area, incorporating a grooming/shower room area, so lots of improvements going on to benefit our rescues.

## Cat paradise

Once our rescued dogs are established in their new surroundings, then it will be the cats' turn for a refurbishment. Already their large enclosed cat garden has been made even more interesting with lots of different

climbing frames, shelves, and little houses, also cat friendly plants. Huge thanks to Bruce and Celia, 2 of our dedicated volunteers who have been busy making the garden a cat's paradise for them to play in and enjoy. The kittens especially, have a whale of a time charging around and exploring, and give our staff a run for their money when they try rounding them up to take them back to their catteries so others can take a turn!

It has been quite a tumultuous year, especially with road closures in Wild Country Lane going on for months on end, and now our car park temporarily being full with containers and builders vehicles, making parking difficult at times. That said, it's all work in progress!

## Talking point

The new Meeting/Training Room and Café area are proving very popular, especially with our volunteers, and we are in the process of booking more talks relating to Animal Welfare and Training, to include Animal First Aid and a Dog Law Seminar. This should be of interest to pet owners, and especially to Holly Hedge adopters, so keep an eye on our Website and Facebook page for more information. Talks by **Tina Constance**, a world renowned Tellington Touch Practitioner, and **Caroline Ingraham**, of the Ingraham Academy of Zoopharmacognosy have proved extremely popular and enlightening, and we hope to have the privilege of their wealth of knowledge and expertise again in the near future. Grateful thanks to both **Tina** and **Caroline** for giving their invaluable services free of charge with all proceeds going to Holly Hedge.

## Charity begins at home

Our two Charity Shops in Clevedon and Nailsea continue to be an asset To Holly Hedge and a valued source of income. Kat and her dedicated team of volunteers are doing an excellent job, and we are so grateful to all the kind people who donate such lovely goods for us to sell.

## What retirement!?

Most people will know by now that I have (sort of) retired. However, I am still actively involved with the Sanctuary and still continue much the same as ever. I am nowhere near ready to take up knitting or flower arranging (perish the thought), and I

hope to continue for many more years to come. That is of course, unless the brain ceases to function and I become catatonic! Seriously, though, I hope to be of use to the animal kingdom until such time as it becomes impossible for me to do so.

Christmas is fast approaching, and already plans are underway to make the festive season as happy as we possibly can for our rescues, who sadly won't be lucky enough to be in their forever homes.

If anyone would like to help, please kindly donate towards their Christmas Dinner Appeal further on in this Newsletter. Many thanks in advance from all our Holly Hedge residents.

## Safe haven

Holly Hedge has so many people to thank who are instrumental in making Holly Hedge a charity to be proud of, some of whom are acknowledged on our Thank you page. Please forgive us if we have forgotten anyone as you are all very important to us. Whatever challenges lie ahead we have the strength and commitment to go forward and pull together to remain a safe haven for animals in need of help – we cannot contemplate letting them down or all the wonderful people who support our work. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thanks also to our amazing staff who put their heart and soul into making Holly Hedge such a special place – their dedication is to be commended.

Wishing all our friends and supporters a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and hope to see many of you at the Grand Opening of our new kennels – we'll be sure to let you know when this will take place, so do keep an eye on our website.

*Pauline Leeson*

**Founder**







# FUNDRAISING

## YOUR SANCTUARY NEEDS



*It costs £8,500 a week to run Holly Hedge and with ever more needy animals ending up at our door, we are struggling.*

*If we are to continue to offer a safe haven for animals in need; including older animals (who may need ongoing medication), nervous animals (that take a lot of time and patience to bond with and train) and unvaccinated and unneutered animals (our veterinary fees cost us over £75,000 a year), we need your help!*

### What can you do?

There are lots of ways you can help us raise money.

- Buy a raffle ticket – it is time for our Christmas raffle, tickets are available at the sanctuary and both our charity shops. They are priced at just £1 per ticket and with amazing prizes such as a 32 inch TV with stand (Donated by the wonderful Clive and Shelia) and a £100 Grooming Voucher at The Grooming Emporium it cannot be missed.
- Send us a little something from our *Amazon Wish List*.
- Hold a *coffee morning* with friends – you get to spend time with your nearest and dearest and raise funds for our rescues at the same time.
- *Sponsor a kennel or cat pen* for as little as £5 a month.
- Pledge a few hours every month (or as often as you can) to take part in one of our *supermarket collections*. These happen all over Bristol so you should be able to find one local to you.
- *Attend one or more of our fundraising events*. We have something for everyone, from cabaret nights to our famous Fun Day at Ashton Court.
- *Get sponsored*. Ever wanted to run a marathon or do a bungee jump? Now's your chance! Contact Holly Hedge for help with sponsorship forms and organising.
- Organise a *work event*.

- Get a *collection tin* or bucket for your office, front desk or canteen – perhaps your employer will match the amount you raise. Ask your employer if they can send an internal email to all your company's employees to let them know what you are up too!
- Organise an *office dress up or dress down day*, charging everyone a nominal fee to take part (you could even set a fine for those who forget). Whether you decide to dress up to the nines, or even come as cats and dogs, you know it'll be a riot.
- Hold a *lunch time feast*; whether it's a cake and sweet sale or you opt for finer dining, you can get everyone involved. Ask some of your colleagues to bring in a few dishes or treats and then invite the whole office along, with everyone paying for some lunch treats!
- Please consider *remembering Holly Hedge when making your will*. Let your legacy be to give other homeless animals that second chance.
- When you *shop on-line* use [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and each purchase you make will generate a cash back donation to Holly Hedge. Simply register and choose Holly Hedge as your chosen charity. You can then shop as normal with 2000+ brand name retailers, including Next, Amazon and Ebay, and use the links from the site to raise money for the sanctuary at no extra cost to you.

If everyone who has had an animal from us, who volunteers, who comes to visit or who cares about what we do, could aim to raise £250 for Holly Hedge during 2015, together we could make all the difference.

Who knows what fun, adventure and new friends you may find along the way?

Please have a good think about whether you can help and do it for them, do it for the cats and dogs of the future who will need Holly Hedge as a safe haven.

Thank you for caring.



# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS!

## MABEL

A Happy Endings with an appeal to everyone out there to give big dogs a chance. We find the larger dogs stay with us at Holly Hedge far longer than their smaller kennel mates which is a crying shame – the bigger the dog, the bigger their heart! Emelia is sharing her experience in adopting a larger-than-life dog from Holly Hedge.

*I spotted Mabel on the Holly Hedge website in June 2011 and thought she looked just gorgeous. I was away studying abroad, but told the rest of the family about her and kept my eye on the Holly Hedge website, hoping that she'd be adopted and be happily settled soon. Sadly, I saw that Mabel was still there every time I looked. Mabel is a bullmastiff x boxer and is a big, bouncy girl full of energy. I began to realise that big dogs in animal sanctuaries often have a very long wait ahead of them, as people believe that they might be far more trouble than a small animal, or are scared of them.*

*After watching Mabel stay at Holly Hedge for months and months, I persuaded my family to drive up to the sanctuary and meet her. We fell in love with her instantly; she had about 10 balls in her kennel and joyously pushed them through the gaps in the wire for us to throw back to her, her tail wagging so hard that it was just a blur! Playing ball is still her favourite thing in the world. Within two weeks, she was coming home with us.*

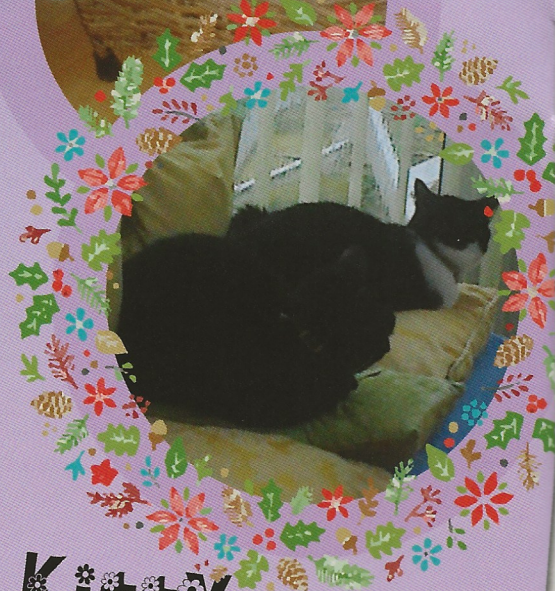
*Mabel had been in a violent household, had witnessed lots of nasty things, and had been left locked up for a long time in a bathroom in an empty flat before she was found and taken to Holly Hedge.*

*As with any rescue animal, the first few months were very hard and a lot of patience and love was needed. But we never gave up on trying to give Mabel a happy place to live. She's such a big and powerful girl, but is the most gentle creature you could imagine. She thinks she is one of us! She sits next to us on the sofa, her head resting on our shoulders, sits in her chair whilst we eat at the table so that she can join in with the meal, and loves to sleep cuddled up against someone so that she knows you're still there.*

*In the three years we have had her, she has changed so much. It just takes a little time. She is calm, happy and settled and loves nothing more than to be with her family.*

*We love Mabel more than anything and want to put out a plea to those looking for a dog to share their home with; please don't overlook big dogs. They may look a little intimidating to start with, but are gentle giants and have so much love to give!*

Emelia Berry



## Kitty

It can take a long time for our older residents to find their forever homes and they often get overlooked. This breaks our hearts as they are such wonderful, loyal companions with so much love to give and they all deserve a happy, relaxed and pampered retirement. Luckily for Kitty, she was just what her new owners were looking for and has fitted perfectly into their home.

Here's what they had to tell us about Kitty and her best friend Sheba.....

*Kitty has really settled in now and is very happy with our other cat Sheba and with her surroundings. She finds all sorts of places to sleep, particularly at night time on the end of our bed, purring very loudly and happily. She loves exploring and is very good at taking her medicine. Sheba was really missing Tiggy who had to be put to sleep in September last year. From a 5 week old kitten, she was always used to another cat for company, so at 14 years old last year, another cat of a similar age was needed for company for her. So when we came in and saw Kitty, we knew that she would be perfect company for Sheba. How true that has been! © Sheba is no longer pining over Tiggy and is very happy with Kitty as company.*

Chris & Lisa Holmes



# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS!



## MIMI

Hi, my name is Mia (but now it's MiMi)

One year ago I was rescued by my owners. I had spent nearly a whole year in Holly Hedge as I was scared of all the visitors. I would bark and growl at them when they came to see me as I had never had anyone who treated me nicely. Before I came to Holly Hedge I was locked in a shed and tied up, but now it's so different.

We have a big garden which I don't like to go to the toilet in - much to my owners' efforts! I am allowed on the sofa with my mummy and we cuddle and watch films! I live next door to a maaaaasive park which we go to twice a day! In the morning we play fetch - my favourite game in the whole wide world and in the evening we go out for a proper walk and sniff! I still get really barky with other dogs when I am on the lead but I am improving as my owners always work with me to be calmer - but it's just sooooo exciting to see another canine friend!!

I have met lots of new people too...at first I'm a bit unsure but my owners are showing me that most people are nice!

I'm a bit of a sleepy head too...my owners leave the bedroom door open and I spend most of my time creeping on the bed and snoozing...I feel very settled here!

All thanks to Holly Hedge I was given a chance - my owners gave me a chance too - they knew I was just a big scaredy cat (dog!) who just needed some help along the way to be the bestest doggy I can be!! WOOF!! WOOF!!



## MONTY & ROLO, (FORMERLY COCO & PRINCE CHARMING)

These two beauties became the best of friends at Holly Hedge and were soon an inseparable pair, so we knew we had to find them a home together. They certainly needed a very patient, understanding new owner as Monty was desperately unhappy living in a cattery and didn't tend to show his better side to any visitors! In fact, he could rarely be seen, as he usually chose to seek refuge inside his little wooden house. But as with all our nervous cats, we knew there was a friendly, loving boy just waiting to come out of his shell and reveal his true colours. His new mum, Nicola Tanner, is testament to what a little time, perseverance and plenty of TLC can do. Here's her update on her new boys just two weeks after adopting them...

I can't really remember a time before they were here now! They've thoroughly taken over my house and now pretty much act like they own the place - though when I've had visitors they tend to err on the side of caution and sneak off to sleep in a drawer under my bed they've found a way into. When my sister visited on Saturday they were lured out in the evening with the prospect of dinner and playtime, so she got to do much cat-fishing with throwing of toys for them to chase, which was quite brave of them! While Rolo is often rubbing around my ankles and coming for strokes, Monty still isn't keen on that side of things yet - though he's much more confident around me otherwise (less hissing and growling, more playtime and actively following me around the place) and has been sniffing at my hand and accepting treats, so we'll hopefully bridge that final gap before too long. Letting him set the pace though.

I've attached a photo of them both, saying it's a hard life being spoilt cats!!

Nicola Tanner





# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS!

## Jango

Jango was a very lucky boy to be found and brought to Holly Hedge. He had been found tied to a tree and abandoned in the middle of the woods late at night. He was just a young boy when he arrived at Holly Hedge and really hadn't had any training or socialisation. Poor Jango spent nearly a year and a half with us, constantly being overlooked by people when all he needed and wanted was some human company and someone to play with; that's all our rescues ask for, a second chance in life.

Eventually a lovely young couple came along and fell in love with him, and a year on Jango is in a loving home. He was always passed by because he was so bouncy in the kennels, but just look at him now.... he's truly perfect, because he was given the chance to prove what a wonderful companion and friend for life he was always longing to be.

Since Jango has been with Becky and Ian, he has come on in leaps and bounds! Jango is now a well mannered young chap who is loving life and enjoying lots of new places to explore. He loves his long walks, playtime and even has a new staffy friend he walks with. He absolutely adores cuddles with his mummy and daddy and it's safe to say that this gorgeous lad really has fallen on his paws!



## Casey

Catalina was a first time adopter and wants to shout from the roof tops for people to **'adopt, not shop'**!

*As a family we had been considering having a dog for a long time but wanted to wait until our children were older. We heard about Holly Hedge from friends who have a rescue dog from there.*

*My son and I came to visit first and Casey immediately caught our eye as she looked so adorable with her droopy ear and big eyes! She was also a little more hesitant than the other dogs. One of your members of staff saw us with Casey and asked if we wanted to take her for a walk. During that walk she told us a little about how Casey had come to you and about her having been re-homed once already. By the end of the walk we were both hooked, Casey was exactly what we were looking for. She clearly loved walking and she interacted really well with us both and also all the other people and dogs we met on the walk.*

*I was asked to come back and meet your dog behaviourist who was able to give me some more information about how Casey hadn't been socialised as a puppy and she gave us some great tips and advice on how to best settle Casey in.*

*My husband and daughter then came to visit Casey and fell in love with her too.*

*When we first bought Casey home she was understandably a little quiet, she clearly wasn't quite sure what was happening. We sat out in the garden with her and then my son found a tennis ball and started playing with her. She started to relax then and clearly loved playing ball. It's still her favourite game now and we often joke that she would keep chasing the ball until she dropped down with exhaustion if we let her. She is so fast, we've yet to meet another dog that can out run her. Unfortunately sometimes her enthusiasm gets the better of her though as she will dash off before the ball is thrown and go in the wrong direction!!*

*Casey was a little unsure of new people to start with, particularly when they came to the house, so we always explained to people to let her approach them first. Even now she backs away if someone she doesn't know approaches her quickly. She is a very loving dog though and she just has a gentle little sniff and then you are likely to get licked to death. It didn't take her long to build up her confidence though and this summer we took her on holiday to Devon where she had great fun coming to pubs and cafes with us, meeting lots of new people and being fussed over. She even had her first swim in the sea which she loved.*

*She loves her walks and gets 3 a day, she knows exactly when she is due a walk, you could set a clock by her, she even likes to try and help us put our coats and shoes on to hurry us up!! We live close to some woods where she loves charging around through the undergrowth, particularly if there are squirrels around to chase!! Having said that I'm sure if one actually stopped she would run away....she's not the bravest dog!! She is so gentle we let her out in the garden with our pet rabbit and they happily sniff around each other.*

*Casey has given us all so much enjoyment, we could not imagine our family now without her.*

*We meet lots of other dogs and their owners out on walks and they all say how lovely she is. I have been told how lucky Casey was to find us but I honestly feel it's the other way round and that we are the lucky ones!! My son and I often congratulate ourselves on finding her.*

*I know all dogs deserve a loving, caring home but having a rescue dog makes us more determined than maybe we would have been that Casey will always feel loved and secure.*

*She is the first rescue dog we have ever owned and we would definitely recommend it. I'm always very proud to say she is a rescue dog and I feel that she is a fantastic advert for how rewarding it can be to re-home a dog!!*

*Catalina and Casey*





# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS!



## FROM 'DEATH ROW POUND' TO 'SAFE & SOUND'



You will all know the great sadness and grief at the loss of very much loved pets, and in 2013 we lost two of our pack of five rescue dogs. I found it very difficult to talk about and Pauline fully understood. Some weeks went by and during one of my usual visits to Holly Hedge, Pauline placed a slice of ham in my hand and asked if I would sit in a kennel with a traumatised, malnourished, nervous and very frightened dog who was too scared to eat and petrified of everyone. 'Juliana' as she was named was a small black lurcher covering in the corner of the pen, afraid to move or even enter the inside kennel. It was quite obvious she had been starved, her ribs and haunch bones stuck out through her thin body. She had been beaten and generally ill treated. She came over from Ireland where she had been in a Pound on Death Row.

Eventually, after visiting for five days with roast lamb, chicken and steak and sitting quietly with her, she began to take food from me and seemed to recognise me when I arrived. On the sixth day, my husband visited with me and, as they say, the rest is history. She came home with us and met Jack, Misty and Patch. It was quite obvious that she had never had a bed to sleep on or eaten out of a dog bowl, but day-by-day she learned from the other dogs what life should be like. It took her three weeks to join us in the lounge; she stayed in the conservatory, peering in through the door. She had obviously never seen a TV before, as she was scared of voices coming out of a box! We let her take everything at her own pace and now, nearly a year later, she has been spayed by keyhole surgery and is a very happy, loving friendly dog who learns very quickly, is brilliant with commands and very intelligent. She has learnt that the kitchen worktops and fridge is not a self-service outlet and it that it is unacceptable to help yourself to food from the plates of visiting friends! It is a joy to watch her relaxing, playing and enjoying being a K9 who doesn't need to be afraid.

Jess, (my husband renamed her as he couldn't imagine being out in the fields calling 'Juliana'!!) gives us so much pleasure. Pauline knew exactly what she was doing when she placed the slice of ham in my hand and we are so pleased she chose us, (without us knowing) to share our lives with such a wonderful dog who is now definitely 'safe and sound'.

Don and Janet



## MOLLY

Delightful Molly was such a friendly cat at Holly Hedge and wasn't coping very well with cattery life. She literally used to cry out for people to come and visit her as she was desperate for human company and for a loving forever home. Fortunately for Molly, that was what she got! Her new owner Belinda sent us this picture of Molly a week after taking her home and we were delighted to hear that she was settling in well and that her new Mum thought she was so lovely. Apparently Molly was also looking longingly at the garden which, at that time, was of course still out of bounds! No doubt Molly now loves exploring her garden as well as snuggling up in her lovely new home and being thoroughly spoilt and pampered!!

## WALTER & JESSE

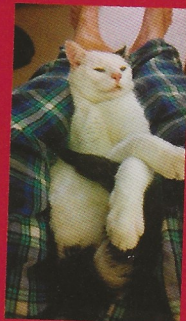
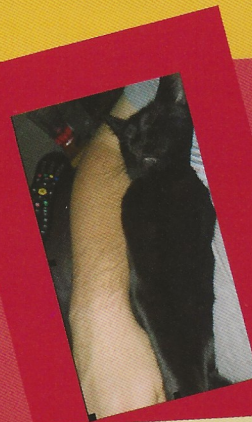
(FORMERLY MAX & TOBY)

Like all kittens, Walter and Jesse were utterly adorable when they were being cared for at Holly Hedge. They were from two separate litters and poor little Toby, (black & white), was the last to be chosen from his. But Toby is proof that 'good things really do come to those who wait' as just look at him now! We were over the moon to receive this recent update from their parents.

I have been inspired to write a Happy Endings story as it's 2 years since we adopted our bundles of love! My husband and I adopted Max and Toby from Holly Hedge in October 2012, we have since renamed them Walter and Jesse. We love Walter and Jesse as if they were our own children, they are definitely one of the family and we love them so much! We can't remember life before them and they make us laugh every day with their little personalities and they are extremely loving and love nothing more than cuddles! They love the outdoors and our massive garden is their playground.

Thank you Holly Hedge for looking after Walter and Jesse so well before they found their forever home!

Aimee and Steve xx





# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS!

## MONTY

When we lost our two Golden Retrievers we took quite a while to feel ready to have another dog. Then up popped Monty on the Holly Hedge Website. We decided to meet him and, getting out of the car, said to each other that it must be a head rules heart situation. We met him and the hearts won! He is a fantastic dog who has brought so much fun back into our home. He has been with us for a few months now and improves all the time. At first we couldn't envisage him being let off his lead for a long time, but he is proving us wrong and enjoys walks in the woods for over an hour completely lead free and is getting better at coming back whenever he is called in all situations. We took him to Cornwall for a couple of days and found he loved playing on the sand and in the sea. He is a joy to own and people say he is lucky to have found a home with us, but we think we are really the lucky ones to have found him.

Carolyn Dauncey



## PHOEBE

(FORMERLY CARLY)

This beautiful little dog was petrified of everything when she first came to Holly Hedge. She would cry and cry continuously and it was absolutely heartbreaking. She was too frightened to go for a walk and would just cling to the member of staff who was with her, trembling with anxiety. Fortunately now those days are behind her and she leads a completely different and relaxed life. Here's what Phoebe's new owner has said about her...

*Phoebe, a little Bichon, 'shrieked' when she arrived at Holly Hedge - she had been with her previous owner for just one week. She gradually settled after a lot of one to one love and attention from the Holly Hedge staff. A couple of weeks later, Phoebe and I met and she came to live with me.*

*Phoebe bonded with me very quickly. She is fine with other dogs and is very clean in the house. She rarely barks and is now walking off the lead in suitable surroundings. Phoebe is still nervous of new people and backs off if they lean towards her to give her a pat. I advise people to just keep a distance, wait and let Phoebe come to them first. She is much more confident with this.*

*Phoebe is great company and we are looking forward to lots of outings and holidays together.*

Mrs J Brown



## MOLLY (FORMERLY PRINCESS)

Molly was one of our 'long stayers' in the cattery and it really broke our hearts to see this beautiful girl looking so fearful and anxious in her pen. We knew she was a very special cat, as she had been such a fantastic Mum to her kittens and, once they had all flown the nest, she helped some of our semi-feral residents to settle into their new surroundings, keeping them company in our cat garden. One of them even used to try sneaking into Molly's pen, such was her positive influence on her fellow felines. Sadly this went unnoticed to the public as Molly would retreat to the safety of her 'house' when people walked by. Then one day, a lovely couple visited Holly Hedge and were instantly taken with Molly and very moved by her story. Molly even winked at them, having emerged from her wooden house, which was most definitely a first! And the rest, well that's history...

Here's what her new owners have said about her...

*Molly had been at Holly Hedge for nearly a year, having arrived from a multi-cat house with her 4 kittens, who had all been found new homes, leaving Molly on her own. Molly has been with us for 5 months now. Initially she was extremely cautious and timid, hiding away for a while, but from experience we knew that it would take time for a shy, timid, "less friendly" cat to adapt to its new environment. Slowly but surely she has grown in confidence and is quite a character. Due to Molly's timidity we could easily have over looked her at the sanctuary. Now we could not be without her.*

Thank you Holly Hedge.

Phil and Sarah





# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS!



## AMOS

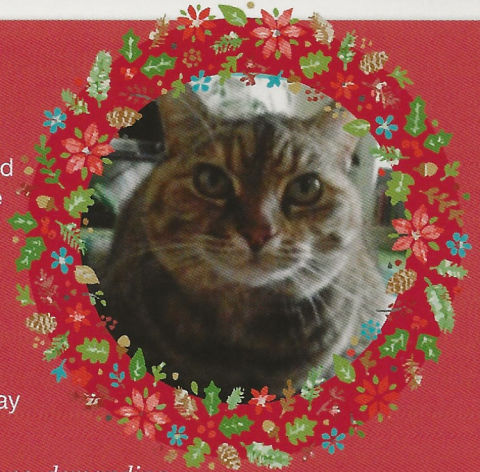
Hello everyone!

My name's Amos and I am a handsome older gentleman who came all the way to Holly Hedge from a Welsh Dog Pound. At that time, I was in desperate need of veterinary care to improve the condition of my coat and to ease the discomfort of my ear infections. I spent two months in a foster home with a very kind lady and her daughter who looked after me until I found my 'forever home', where I am much loved and blissfully happy. In spite of my sad past, I am the most loving and loyal dog you could wish for and I also have a very special feline friend who I frequently greet with a big slobbery kiss! I think he loves me too! I really enjoy my walks and trips to local pubs and cafes, where I spend time socialising with people and dogs alike! I'll always be deaf, but I'm learning sign language and am so much healthier now. So I shall always be eternally grateful to Holly Hedge for rescuing me and for turning my life around. What a wonderful place.



## SCRUMPY

Poor Scrumpy was already 12 years old when she found herself at Holly Hedge and was totally overwhelmed by her new surroundings. She spent most of the time hiding away in her little wooden cat house and was very nervous and shy.



Here's what her new owners have to say about her...

*Scrumpy is the alpha female in our house, demanding when doors should open and when it's time for us to go to bed or wake up! If I could call her whilst at work, she would probably order me to come home at once! Scrumpy is our first cat and we did have a lot to get used to, but Holly Hedge and friends have been so supportive and the work they do is phenomenal. We have all had to get used to different routines and now she has fully settled in. She loves her cuddles and sits on our laps (and heads) when it's time to go to bed or to get up and feed her in the morning! We don't mind because she's wonderful and a much-loved member of the family.*

*Yasmin and Matthew Aston-Patel*



For all your design needs:

- logos • stationery
- posters • brochures
- leaflets • adverts
- website design
- newsletters • weddings

Contact Tania on:

T: 07989 945980

herbie.inca@yahoo.co.uk



# FUN DAY

What a fantastic day, the weather was good to us – lots of friends, old and new, came to support Holly Hedge, the raffle prizes were amazing, and the Fun Dog Show and Dog Agility were brilliant. All in all a great team effort to help Holly Hedge care for the increasing numbers of animals needing our help. A grand total of £6, 212.25 was raised after expenses were deducted, which we are thrilled to bits with.

Our Fundraising volunteers put their all into making the event such a great success, and without them we really couldn't have done nearly as well – invaluable springs to mind!

It was so heart-warming to see lots of lovely Holly Hedge Dogs and their owners

enjoying the day, and catch up on how they are doing. It's days like these that lift our spirits – just seeing our ex Holly Hedge residents looking so happy is a real morale booster.

We have so very many wonderful people to thank, so please forgive us if we have missed anyone out, as each and every one of you are very important to us.

So here goes with huge heartfelt thanks to:

**Dianne and Nicola**, for the many hours, days, weeks of preparation spent sorting out and pricing goods to sell on their stalls, and their unwavering dedication to raising as much money as they possibly can for our rescues.

These two lovely ladies worked so hard, as they do all year round, and did Holly Hedge proud.

**David Bailey**, who drew the layout for the stalls on the day, then at the 11th hour we were told we couldn't have our usual field as it was badly churned up – so he had to do it all over again with a totally different layout, which was no easy task – but he did it, and everything fitted into place beautifully. Also he and his wife **Sandy** marked out and allocated where all the stalls had their pitches two days before the event.

The amazing guys from **Hartcliffe Motor Company** who were up at the crack of dawn on Sunday to help us load everything up to take to Ashton Court. **Eamon, Dave, Matt, Jamie, Jack, Lewis** and **Stuart**, arrived with 5 vans and a pick-up truck, a convoy of dedicated helpers. Not only did they provide the transport, but helped us unload goods for Holly Hedge stalls and take them to where they were needed. They then rallied round to put up gazebos and generally lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. If that wasn't enough, these lovely chaps stayed all day, until the event ended, then helped load everything left over back onto the vans and truck, took it back to Holly Hedge, and unloaded it all. We are so grateful for all their hard work for the third year running – they made life easier for all of us and saved us a lot of time and money, as well as donating raffle prizes, including a free MOT & Service. Thank you all so much.

**Clive and Sheila**, thank you for donating the 32" TV and Stand for our 1st Raffle Prize, and lots of other lovely prizes too. Also for manning the

raffle stall, and generally helping out everywhere, fetching and carrying, organising, and lots of behind the scenes action.

Thanks also to **The Mutt Professor** for £100 voucher to use at their very exclusive Grooming Parlour – **Dot** for one week's stay at **Woolmers Boarding Kennels** and everyone too numerous to mention for donating so many lovely prizes.

Grateful thanks to **Vale Vets** for sponsoring the raffle tickets and supporting Holly Hedge on the day – also advising visitors on pet health.

**Susan, Barry** and **Christine**, who did a brilliant job of manning the Dog Show tent, and didn't even have time to stop for a cup of tea. A very well organised trio.

**Janet Temperton** compered the Dog Show and did an outstanding job, even though she was nervous to begin with as this was her first time. She needn't have worried as she came across as very natural and knowledgeable. Well done Janet, you've got the job again next year. Thanks also to **Don**, Janet's husband, who sat in the sun for hours writing and handing out certificates!

**Nikki** from **Vale Vets**, **Tina Constance** from **T-Touch**, and **Pip** from **Staffie Rescue** did an excellent job of judging the Dog Show – one of the hardest things to do as all the dogs were so lovely, and some of their stories were so very touching.

**Ken & Claire**, sold a mammoth amount of delicious cakes and refreshments, and were totally sold out by the end of the day. Claire had turned their house into a bakery with her culinary delights, and no doubt Ken had to have his wrists slapped on more than one occasion for sampling the goods.

Thanks also to all the cake fairies who baked mouth watering cakes to sell – there wasn't a crumb left but there were a lot of happy tummies!

**Denise & family** for promoting and selling Holly Hedge merchandise.

**John** for entertaining the children with his **Punch & Judy show** – a great favourite.

**Pat** and **Malcolm Webb** and the **Dog Agility Team**, always a huge hit with visitors and in great demand from start to finish.

**Rachel** and her **Dad** for our Charity Shop poster at very short notice.

Lovely **Laura** and friends for the doggy games, and helium balloons. It has to be said that Laura worked mega hard, successfully promoting the Fun Day on Facebook, and worked around the clock behind the scenes.

**Chris & Nigel** did a great job with children's games, and the pluck a duck paddling pool was also enjoyed by a visiting dog that made the most of it to cool off.

**Lisa** and **Mark**, two of our longstanding volunteers ran the Cat Photo Competition, and **Maggs**, who has been a volunteer Holly Hedge cat cuddler for 14 years judged the photos.

**Kat**, who does an excellent job of running our **Nailsea** and **Clevedon shops**, gave up her only day off to run a stall and support our Fun Day – so dedicated – this woman never stops!

**Jan Matthews** for being our First Aider, and directing the Stallholders to their pitches, a very organised lady.

**Simon** and his team of cadets for marshalling the car park and shaking collection buckets. They all did a fantastic job, and we would love them to come again next year.

**Malcolm** and **Emma** for taking some amazing photos.

**Nicky** and **Val** for the Doggy Sprint and so very much more. Also thanks to **Nicky** for the endless photocopying and behind the scenes work during the lead up to the event.

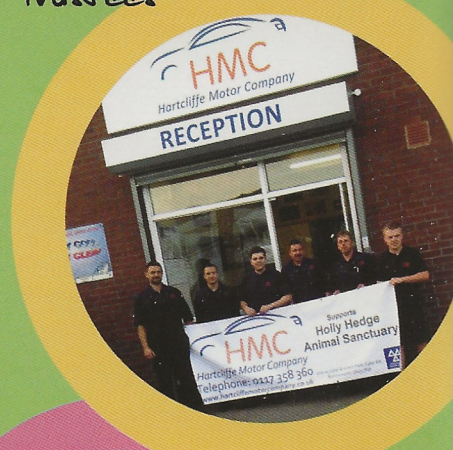
**Tania Taber** for designing the programme, posters, and just about everything connected to the Fun Day. This lovely lady has supported Holly Hedge for almost 20 years and has never wanted payment for any of her amazing graphic designing, saving us thousands of pounds.

To all the **volunteers** who multi-tasked helping to cover stalls and carrying collection buckets, you did a great job.

And **Peblo**, for being instrumental in pulling it all together when time was against us, and for putting in hours of work to make it happen.

Thank you one and all for being there for Holly Hedge and all our rescues, it just goes to show what great team work can achieve – well done everybody!

*Pauline Leeson, Staff and Trustees*





# THANK YOUs & FUNDRAISING



## Our charity shops

Holly Hedge would like to thank Kat and her team for doing such a brilliant job of running our two Charity Shops. Not only is this a vital source of income, but a great opportunity to meet people and tell them about the Charity and the work that we do. Our invaluable volunteers play a major part in the success of both our shops, and we really couldn't do it without their help.

Thanks also to all the lovely animal lovers who donate goods for us to sell towards the upkeep of the many animals in our care – this is very much appreciated.

We are always in need of good quality items and clothing, and are extremely grateful for all contributions received, so please keep the donations flowing, and do feel welcome to come and visit us at Holly Hedge and meet some of our 2 legged and 4 legged friends.

**NAILSEA SHOP**  
Unit 1,  
87/89 High Street,  
Kings Court,  
Nailsea BS48 1AW  
Tel: 01275 859 070

**CLEVEDON SHOP**  
7A The Triangle,  
Clevedon BS21 6NB  
Tel: 01275 219 086



## Courses for 2015

Watch this space! Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for up and coming courses in 2015. There are going to be numerous interesting talks and training courses, all animal-related.

Dog Law seminar

Zoopharmacognosy with  
Caroline Ingraham

Tellington Touch with Tina Constance

Animal First Aid course

## every Penny counts – new kennels appeal

Please read our Kennel Appeal supplement and consider helping Holly Hedge reach our goal of £650,000. If you are unable to make a monetary donation, we understand times are still very tight, but if you can spread the word and make your friends, family and workmates aware that our rescued canines at Holly Hedge are so desperate for more comfortable and cosy facilities whilst they wait hopefully to be chosen and rebuild their lives once more. This is a heartfelt plea on behalf of those we care so much for, who have no voice, and totally depend on the goodwill and generosity of kind people who want to make a difference to their lives and their future. We honestly cannot do this without your invaluable help, and we really do appreciate every single penny donated to Holly Hedge. We sincerely hope that this Newsletter, along with all the endearing stories, and all the little faces living in hope for a brighter future, will encourage our readers to want to make a difference for the better - it's only what they deserve as most of them have been let down by humans in some way. We look forward to hearing from you - thanking you so much in anticipation!

## HOLLY HEDGE CHRISTMAS CARDS

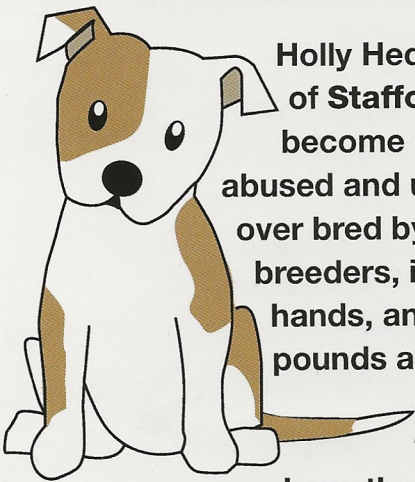


Our Christmas cards have arrived and are on sale in our charity shops and at the Sanctuary. A pack of 10 cards are priced ranging from £2.50 – £2.75. If you are not local to us and you would like to order them over the phone (01275 474719), then we can arrange to post them to you for a small postal fee – please ask to speak to Angela Millard.





# IN PRAISE OF STAFFIES NEEDING HOMES



Holly Hedge would like to highlight the plight of **Staffordshire Bull Terriers**, who have become one of the most abandoned, abused and unwanted dogs. They have been over bred by breeders and back street breeders, invariably ending up in the wrong hands, and now animal shelters and dog pounds are overflowing with them. Staffies don't kennel well, and pine terribly for human company. The females have the reputation of being the 'nanny'

dogs as they are renowned for being good with children. A Staffie in the wrong home – mistreated, abused, starved of food, love and affection – trained to fight and be wary of people, which is not in their true nature, it is what unscrupulous human beings have forced upon them. These poor dogs have no choice other than to do as they are told or face the consequences!! A Staffie in the right home and well socialised, is one of the most loyal and loving pets, and would willingly give their lives for the people they love. All these wonderful animals want to do is please their owners, and be a loyal friend and companion. They so deserve to be given that chance, and to prove how much love they have to give – which is totally unconditional.

## STAFFIE WALK

Just like to say a huge thank you to Pip and Simon for organising the Staffie Awareness Walk. Lots of wonderful Staffies and Staffie Xs, along with their owners, all walked beautifully together, with no animosity whatsoever. Other dogs who weren't Staffies came too, and it was a pleasure to see them all enjoying themselves. Thanks also to Pip and Laura for sharing some tear-jerking Staffie stories on the Holly Hedge Facebook page. It was also heartwarming to see ex-Holly Hedge dogs joining in looking so happy and well loved. All in all a lovely Staffie day out. Thanks to all the owners too – your dogs are a real credit to you, and it just goes to show that in the right hands Staffies really are 'the best'.







# IN PRAISE OF STAFFIES NEEDING HOMES



## A Staffie Plea

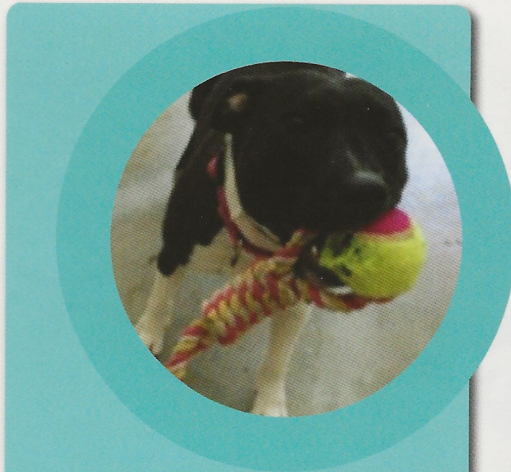
*If you haven't felt too cheery,  
In a little while,  
Then why not have your days lit up,  
With a Staffie smile?!*

*In spite of all the persecution,  
We have to endure,  
We don't bear any grudges,  
Of that you can be sure.*

*We're such a friendly, loyal breed,  
But there's this unfair trend,  
To think that we're not worthy  
pets,  
When will this heartache end?*

*We were nicknamed 'Nanny Dogs'  
In the last World War,  
'Cos we comforted the children,  
With love and so much more.*

*Kind people who adopt us,  
Say they couldn't live,  
Without the true, devoted love,  
A Staffie has to give.*



## Kana

Kana is a very sweet little girl and extremely beautiful. She is at Holly Hedge through no fault of her own and it's high time she found her forever home. Kana seems to be good with other dogs. She would need to live with older children/teenagers as she can be very hyper sometimes. All Kana longs for is a loving home with lots of cuddles and affection. Please come and meet her - you could be the perfect person for her!

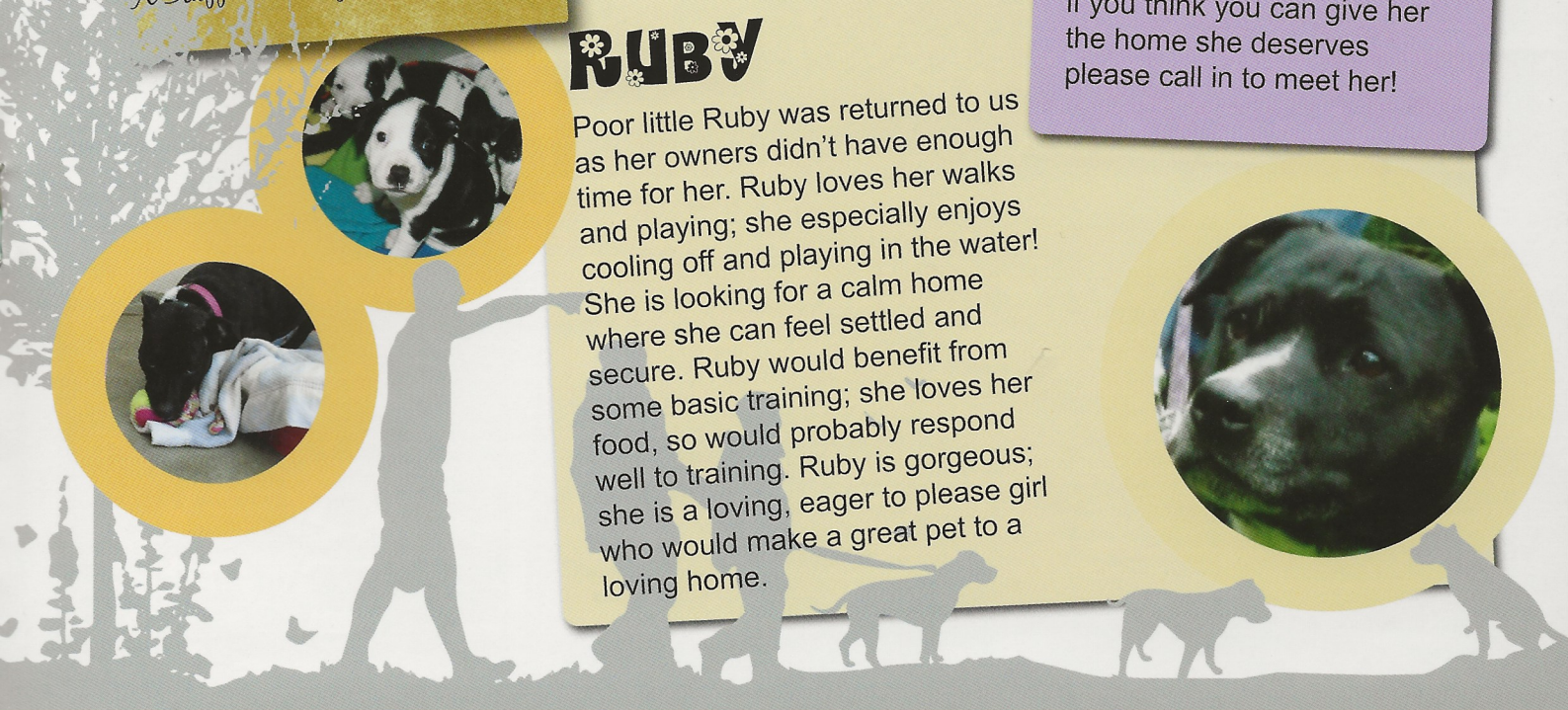


## Mya

Mya has not had the the best start in life after she was found as a stray and heavily pregnant. Thankfully she was brought to us at Holly Hedge and now all of Mya's puppies have been homed, Mya is looking for a forever home for herself. As Mya is still so young and she has been busy being a mum, she has not had much chance to socialise or interact with people. She has proved to be a lovely little lady but Mya needs someone who can give her a chance to work with her and further train her. Mya is a beautiful young lady, if you think you can give her the home she deserves please call in to meet her!

## Ruby

Poor little Ruby was returned to us as her owners didn't have enough time for her. Ruby loves her walks and playing; she especially enjoys cooling off and playing in the water! She is looking for a calm home where she can feel settled and secure. Ruby would benefit from some basic training; she loves her food, so would probably respond well to training. Ruby is gorgeous; she is a loving, eager to please girl who would make a great pet to a loving home.







# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



## FRIDAY 8 MAY 2015

Due to the popularity of our D-Day anniversary dance, we have decided to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War 2. Come along and hear the sounds of the 40s with the **Thornbury Swing Band** at the Long Ashton Community Centre!

**TICKETS BOUGHT BEFORE THE EVENT WILL GET A FREE RATION PACK!**

Watch out for more details coming soon!



R.B.I  
18

MINISTRY OF  
FOOD  
1943 - 1944



SERIAL NO.  
BP 474719

### THANK YOU

Name D Day Anniversary Dance

The D-Day Anniversary Dance in June was a spectacular event! We enjoyed Big Band music from **The Thornbury Swing Band** who were brilliant - an auction, raffle, vintage make-overs, and vintage goods for sale! The 40s outfits were fabulous, and some were actually the real thing and have been proudly worn

helping to save their country - so awe-inspiring and very nostalgic. Purple poppies were sold on behalf of the millions of animals that gave their lives for their country, and red poppies for all our brave troops who lost their lives in the line of duty. We owe our very existence to them.

Huge thanks to the amazing **Tania Taber** who organised the evening on behalf of Holly Hedge - everyone had such a fantastic night, and **£1,808.80** was raised for the animals in our care. Tania is already looking forward to organising her next inspirational event (see above) - VE Day Dance on Friday May 8th 2015. **Thanks also to the lovely volunteers** who helped on the night, and to **everyone** who supported the event.

# Man's Best Friend

on Sunday

8 March 2015

at **Long Ashton Community Centre** at 7.30pm

featuring

**South Bristol Music Centre Community Orchestra**

**Jonathan Palmer** (Conductor) and **Mike Osborn** (Baritone)

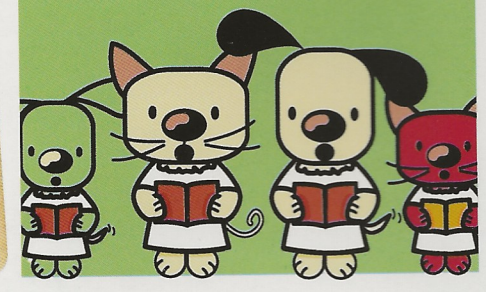
A special concert with a varied programme of music from the period of The Great War, to listen and sing along to: Songs from the trenches, Dance Band arrangements, Scott Joplin, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Ivor Novello, Jerusalem...

Tickets £7.00

Children (under 16) free

*Drink and Light refreshments included*

*all in aid of  
Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary*







# DOGS & CATS NEEDING HOMES



## Frankie

is a handsome medium sized crossbreed looking for a new home, as his owners have had a change in circumstances. Frankie is a good-natured boy who in the home is a delight; he's house trained, very loving and seeks a lot of attention and cuddles. Frankie does however, have a number of fear related issues, so would need a new home where someone has lots of time available to dedicate to his training and who has had plenty of experience with similar dogs in the past. Frankie would make a wonderful dog and will offer huge rewards to someone willing to give him 100%. If you would like to find out more about this lovely scruff ball then please contact us today!



## Gus

Well hello there, my name is Gus,  
I do enjoy a gentle fuss.  
I have a huge great character,  
And I know my own mind.  
I'm also rather handsome,  
I think you will find!  
I'm bags of fun, I love to play  
So catch me if you can....  
If you find me appealing,  
Then 'BINGO' I'm your man!  
So if what you are after,  
is personality.....  
I strongly recommend,  
That you ask to meet me!

**Gorgeous Gus** is a really affectionate boy who loves a fuss and enjoys being tickled under his chin. He would be suited to a family with slightly older children. If you would like to meet this little charmer, please ask a member of staff to introduce you - then you can see what a sweet boy he is and what a 'purr-fect' addition he could be to your home!

**Frankie**  
I don't like life in kennels,  
It makes me really stressed.  
At home with loving people,  
That's where I feel my best.  
I need a special human,  
To love and care for me.  
I long for those home comforts,  
With lots of company.  
I know I'd be so happy,  
Living in a home.  
I'm really sick and tired,  
Of being on my own.  
So won't you please consider,  
Taking on Frankie?  
Cos being in a kennel,  
Is just not the thing for me!

**Midnight**  
I have been here for such a long time  
and I am just longing to go to my  
'forever home'.  
I will be the happiest chappie ever  
when the reserved sign finally goes  
on my door.  
I have so much love to give.  
Keeping my paws crossed.  
love from Midnight xxx



## Midnight

is a pure black German Shepherd x Labrador who sadly did not have the best start in life and now he has come back to Holly Hedge through no fault of his own. Midnight is a big strong lad so will need an experienced owner who can handle him. He is a lovely boy who is good with his commands and loves a cuddle. Midnight just needs a home where someone understands him and can give him the time and security he needs. If you would like to find out more, please contact us today!

**Roxie & Elvis**  
When we first came to Holly Hedge,  
We were extremely shy,  
Maybe that's why everybody,  
Seemed to pass us by.  
But now we've grown in confidence,  
Won't you come and see?  
Just how sweet and friendly,  
We've turned out to be.  
We'd love to be adopted,  
And find a cosy home,  
Somewhere warm and loving,  
That we can call our own.

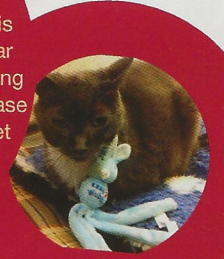
## Roxie and Elvis

- this handsome duo are just longing for their forever home. After being brought to Holly Hedge they have lost a bit of trust in humans and in their own confidence. But once they know you they will show you what gorgeous cats they are who love a tickle under the chin! If you have a space in your home and your heart for these two beauties, please ask a member of staff about them



**Nimtu**  
I wrote a special plea before,  
And pinned it to my door.  
But noone seemed to read it,  
So now I'm writing more.  
So now I'm writing more.  
I've been here EVEN longer now,  
And I just want to know,  
When will it be my turn,  
Homeward bound to go?  
So won't you ask today,  
If you can meet me?  
I'm really rather gorgeous.  
Just come in and see!

**Nimtu** is a very sweet, cuddly chap who is looking for a special place in someone's heart. He found himself at Holly Hedge through no fault of his own and has already been with us far too long for an older boy who is craving his cosy forever home to relax in. Please speak to a member of staff and meet Nimtu today. Prepare to fall in love with this splendid gentleman!





# DOGS & CATS NEEDING HOMES

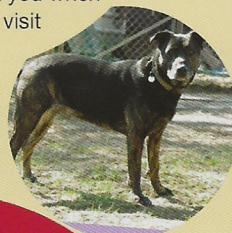
## Prince

My name is Prince - boy that sounds grand,  
But I don't need a royal land!  
Just a cosy home like yours,  
Where I'll feel wanted & adored.  
I don't aspire to jewels & riches,  
Or a kingly throne.  
Just a caring, loving place,  
A pad to call my own.  
I'm full of life & vigour,  
I'd love to go to school.  
If you could take me training,  
That would be really cool!  
Please don't do what I'm used to,  
Pass by without a glance.  
But ask if you can meet & give this  
HANDSOME Prince a chance!



## Prince

is a handsome, lively lad who didn't get the training he needed in his earlier life so has become a little scared of new situations. He is a good boy who loves to play games and run around and he enjoys nothing more than a nice long walk! Prince is ok with some other dogs but does have a tendency to nibble on their tails! With the right training, Prince would soon learn lots of new things and, given time and patience once settled, he would become a real gent! If you think you can offer our Lordship the home he so very much deserves, then please ask to meet him today and you can see for yourself all his potential.



## Sam

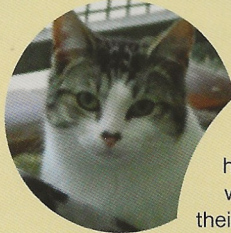
is a really loving boy looking for a special home. He needs an adult only home - or possibly a home with older teenagers. Sam loves cuddles, company and his home comforts. Unfortunately he cannot live with cats or dogs as he likes to have you all to himself. He is okay with most dogs out and about. Sam really is an affectionate boy who is craving someone to love, and is so eager to please. Sam is currently our office dog and would love to greet you when you come to visit

## Sam

It's that time of year again,  
To write my Christmas list.  
Let's pray that unlike last year,  
I will not get missed.  
It seems as if I've been here,  
Forever and a day.  
When will some good fortune,  
Begin to come my way?  
I have waited longer now,  
Than all my dog friends here.  
Surely I deserve,  
A little festive cheer.  
Why can't my presents be,  
Under someone's tree?  
My very own new Mum's or Dad's,  
With faith and trust in me.  
I know I need a special home,  
Where I'll be understood.  
I'd love to have a chance,  
I really, really would.  
So come on please now Santa,  
Won't you grant me just one gift?  
A kind and patient caring home,  
Would give me such a lift!

## Semi ferals

It really isn't pleasant,  
Fending for oneself,  
And to have that sinking feeling,  
That life's left you on the shelf.  
Just like all the others,  
We need a special home.  
And to reap all the rewards,  
Of not being alone.  
So can we tempt you with the challenge,  
Of a semi-feral cat?  
You'll find it so fulfilling,  
You can be sure of that.  
Our lives so far have not been great,  
So please just take it steady.  
And we will shower you with love,  
As soon as we feel ready.

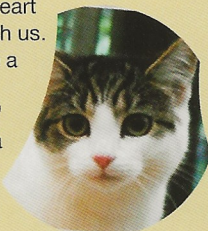


## Casper & Clive

come from a multi-cat household where all the cats were found abandoned after their previous owners moved. Due to this terrible lack of human care and attention, they are all wary of people and are looking for that special home with a family who have the time

## Aragorn

arrived here as a stray, and sadly due to the lack of human attention he has become very wary of people and needs to learn to trust humans again. He is looking for a nice quiet home with a owner that has the time and patience to bring this lovely looking boy back out of his shell and into the lovely cat he is waiting to be. He is making progress already - if you can open your heart and home to this lovely cat please get in touch with us. One of our lovely cat cuddling volunteers wrote a lovely poem just for Aragorn: Here's lovely, handsome prince Aragorn - To role of 'Strider' he's been born - And, like his namesake, on a mission. - But in his case, he'd like permission - To have a place to call his own - And make your chair his kingly throne!



## Golden Oldies

Come & meet our golden oldies,  
they are just divine.  
All of them are thinking,  
'please can you be mine.'  
They are all so special,  
and surely you can see,  
that a cattery for them,  
is not the place to be.  
If you take them home,  
they'll cause you no commotion,  
you'll just be rewarded,  
with true love and devotion.  
They'll treat you with respect,  
they'll stay so close to home.  
They long to spend their twilight years,  
loved and not alone.

## Justine and Mr Tumbles

are two beautiful cats looking for a new home together. Due to being strays and the lack of human company from a young age, they are both very nervous. They are looking for an adult home environment with someone who has lots of patience and understanding. With plenty of this, these kits will be able to grow into the confident young adults they long to be!







# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

**Holly Hedge has so many people to thank for their support, and it is impossible to thank everyone individually, so those that don't get mentioned in this newsletter, please bear with us until next time!**

## Faithful volunteers

**Dianne**, who works tirelessly organising and participating in shop collections and table top sales almost every weekend, whatever the weather, along with our team of dedicated Friends of Holly Hedge volunteers.

**Nicky B.** who organises and teams up with Dianne at car boots and table top sales, and spends hours tidying and sorting out our fund-raising storeroom, as well as working table top sales.

Both these ladies work so well together and make a fantastic team with only one thing on their minds – to help our rescues and ensure Holly Hedge has a future. Our very own Dynamic Duo, and don't they do us proud!

**Nicky L.** Not only is Nicky an established cat cuddler and dog walker, she gives regular talks about Holly Hedge, often accompanied by her mum **Pat**, and **Amos**, Pat's adorable Holly Hedge dog. Nicky is great at multi-tasking and can turn her hand to pretty much anything – helping out in the office, collecting at supermarkets, working with Dianne and Nicky B, writing in the Newsletter, home-checking, and so on... Nothing is too much trouble, and we and our rescues are so lucky to have her.

Lovely **Laura** – although she has a full time job, puts in just as many hours, if not more volunteering for Holly Hedge. Laura is the main Administrator on our Facebook Page and is responsible for boosting our profile at least double to what it used to be. So many of our followers look forward to Happy Endings Monday, and the Shoe Box Appeal and Wish List have been hugely successful. We could go on and on, but this would only embarrass her further!

**Enid**, who volunteers in the office every Monday, and has also recruited her niece **Judith** into helping with admin – you are both so helpful and much appreciated.

**Pip, Emma, Daisy** and **Sandie**, who also regularly help out with office admin – we are so thankful for your help, also **Koro** who takes such brilliant photos and adds them to our website – you all do a great job.

**Malcolm** who also takes photos of our felines, thank you for giving your time.

**Pat Woods**, better known as **Mr Truffle Shuffle**, who has donated our staff uniforms for the past 4 years, saving us a great deal of money – we are so grateful for your kindness.

**Cristy** and **The Ethical Team** for giving us lots of office furniture saving us hundreds of pounds. These amazing people have done so much for Holly Hedge, and we wouldn't be where we are today without them.

**David & Sandy** – always there for our rescues and help Holly Hedge in so many ways too numerous to mention. (Who said the male species couldn't multitask?)!

**Maggs** and **Sue**, longstanding volunteers giving up some of their evenings between 7 and 9pm to tuck the cats in and give them a goodnight cuddle.

**Janet** and **Don Temperton**, for collecting numerous good quality items to sell in our charity shops as well as lots of dog and cat food, also organising fundraising events, along with **Trish**, Janet's right-hand lady. Their help is invaluable.

**Bruce** and **Celia**, who, every week, give up their time to improve facilities for our rescues. Our cat garden looks amazing!

**Paul**, for all his help with maintenance and lots of other jobs in and around the Sanctuary.

Thanks to **Karen** at **Junction 18** for all her support in donating lots of lovely items for our charity shops to sell. They are all brand new and are always very popular with our customers.

## Group visits & events

We continue to have lots of groups visiting us, and we are so grateful for the food and donations they bring with them, as well as giving our rescues extra cuddles.

We are invited to attend lots of local events giving us the opportunity to boost our dwindling coffers, and we really appreciate being asked to participate.

## Design and advertising

**Tania Taber**, graphic designer extraordinaire, who for the last 20 years has kindly designed everything from our logo, to posters, Christmas cards and newsletters. Her art and design work is second to none, and you would think, with her amazing talent, she made lots of money! But no – Tania gives her time and expertise free to Holly Hedge and other animal charities, saving us thousands of pounds – a true and caring friend to all animals, and totally indispensable.

**Tracey, James** and **team** at the **Flyer Magazine**. They have been amazing, giving us free advertising, and publicising Holly Hedge rescues needing homes every single month. Over the years they have helped us to find some lovely new owners, as well as adopting several of our rescues themselves. We wish them all the luck in the world with their new venture.

**Cherry** for her fabulous hand made cards that are so popular with everyone.

## Supermarket sweeps

All the **supermarkets** who kindly allow us to hold bucket collections and collect food, we are enormously grateful to all of you.

All the **pet shops** that collect food, toys, treats and bedding all year round for our rescues, **Jolly's Pet Supplies, Aaron's Pets** at Nailsea & Clevedon, and **Portishead Pet & Garden Centre** – you are much appreciated.

## Tweet tweet

Our volunteer Twitter lady **Jennie Mann** who tweets away on Holly Hedge's behalf, we so appreciate you giving us your time.

## Halfway house

To all our **volunteer dog walkers, cat cuddlers, home checkers, fundraisers** and **everyone** who plays an integral part in making Holly Hedge a much happier halfway house – we truly couldn't do it without you!

## The adopters

**Everyone** who has **adopted** and taken in to their homes and their hearts a Holly Hedge rescue – or two, or three... thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

## The legal bit

**Linda Reeves**, our **Legal Advisor (Honorary)** for saving us a great deal of money by dealing with legal matters, and giving Holly Hedge the benefit of her expertise.

**And last but no means least, our wonderful Staff, their devotion and dedication is second to none.**







*Thank you all for your hard work and support for the animals in our care - you did Holly Hedge proud - and Holly Hedge is proud of all of you too!*

# THANK YOU

Our wonderful team of volunteer collectors, led by our very own **DIANNE STEPHENS** have raised a brilliant **£9,211.34** so far this year. This dedicated team are out collecting most weekends and some week days at Supermarkets and other locations throughout Bristol and North Somerset. Whatever the weather, Friends of Holly Hedge are there for the animals all year round, and we are so grateful for your continued dedication and support. Thanks also to the Supermarkets and their staff for allowing us to collect at their premises - lots of woofs and purrs from our rescues.

**TEAM SPIDER PIG** took part in this year's Wolf Run, and as well as getting covered in mud managed to raise over **£170**.

The **CUDDLE ME EVENT** went down a storm back in April, with dog and cat loving participants settling in for a day in the cat pens and dogs' kennels. The cats and kittens enjoyed a whole lot of extra fuss and cuddles, and were very pleased to hear that their humans had raised a brilliant **£991.50**. Thanks to everyone that took part, we hoped you enjoyed your day as much as our rescues did. Look out for the next Cuddle Me in 2015.

**GREG HARDING** who bravely stepped in to take his cousin's place in a sponsored sky dive. Sadly **ABBY NEEDS** couldn't take part due to illness: she didn't want to let us down so managed to persuade Greg to take her place. Together they raised just over **£125**.

Our very own **SUZANNE FORREST** raised over **£500** taking part in the Bristol Half Marathon. A great achievement for a cause that will always be a huge part of her life.

An incredible total of **£2,035** was raised on line by **THE ANIMAL RESCUE AUCTION GROUP**, and Holly Hedge would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful people at **TARG**, your hard work was very much appreciated by our rescues. Also grateful thanks to **Pip** for nominating us and for all the time and effort she put in behind the scenes helping to make the event such a great success - and of course our bidders and supporters of the Facebook auction - everyone did a brilliant job.

Thanks to everyone who **PARTICIPATED IN THE NEWFOUNDLAND WATER RESCUE** in July. Yet again willing sponsored participants plunged themselves into the waters at Portishead Marina, to be rescued and towed to the safety of a boat by the truly magnificent **NEWFOUNDLAND DOGS**. These wonderful dogs and their owners do such amazing work for so many charities, and Holly Hedge is so fortunate and privileged to be one of them. Thanks to **DAVID** and the **NEWFOUNDLAND TEAM** (dogs and humans) for holding this event for us again, everyone had a fantastic day and **£3,091** was raised with more sponsorship money still to come.

**PIP SHARP** raised over **£270** when she rode her bike 56 miles from Bristol to Weston-Super-Mare. **SARAH WILTON** raised over **£340** by taking part in the Bath Half Marathon.

**EMMA WOODS** and the members of her 3 **SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS** in Bristol raised **£1504.67** by organising their own Sponsored Walk to purchase a Grooming Table and all the professional equipment needed to groom and clip our rescues. Some of the animals come to us very badly matted, and staff can now make them feel much more comfortable straight away. Thank you **EMMA** and **TEAM** for your wonderful donation.

**LYN MITCHELL**, a long standing supporter of Holly Hedge, and her music students, put on a wonderful afternoon concert for our rescues, which was a great success, and **£350** was raised. Huge thanks to one and all.



# Christmas Shoebox Appeal



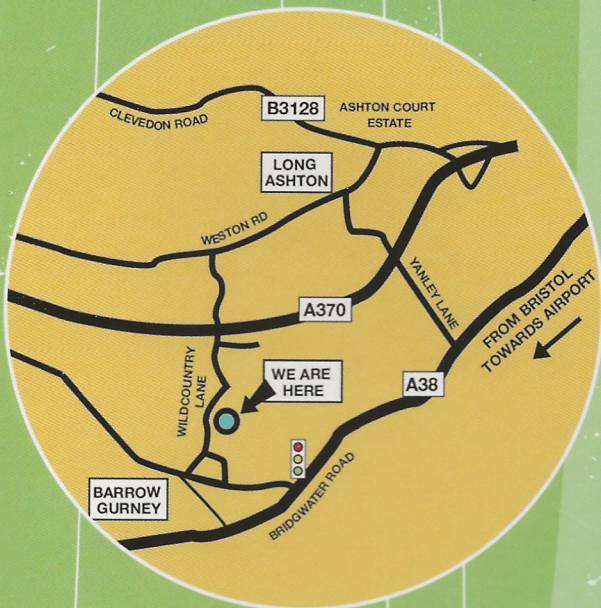
**HOLLY HEDGE**  
Animal Sanctuary

Providing shelter from harm and  
the promise of a brighter future

**Holly Hedge** have joined up with the **Animal Shoebox Appeal**, which asks that our supporters fill up a shoebox with animal related gifts such as **food, treats, toys, bedding**. Your shoebox can contain as little or as much as you wish (they don't even have to be in shoeboxes!).

Once your box is full, simply label **CAT** or **DOG** depending on its contents and you can drop the box directly to the Sanctuary or any of our charity shops **before** Christmas Day.

Christmas is always a challenging time for any charity. Your support will help to bring food and comfort to our animals without a family of their own this festive season.



Wild Country Lane, Barrow Gurney, Bristol BS48 3SE  
Tel: 01275 474719 • [www.hollyhedge.org.uk](http://www.hollyhedge.org.uk) • Reg charity No: 294606





# CHRISTMAS DINNERS

At this time of year, when caring owners are looking to buy their much loved pet a special present, and extra special treats for them to tuck into on Christmas Day, please spare a thought for the many homeless and abandoned animals who will spend the festive season with very little to look forward to. At Holly Hedge we always have lots of hungry mouths to feed and we do our utmost to ensure all our rescues have extra special food and happy tummies during the festive season. 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.

This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



This bowl was filled by:



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".