

Let's

Go!

Inside this issue:

- New role for Nick
- Advanced training
- 25 reasons
- Puppy supply



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Welcome

It's time for our next issue of Let's Go!, the magazine that will tell you all you need to know about what's going on at Canine Partners!

We are delighted that our good friend, Claire Skinner, is not only gracing the front cover but also promoting our My Amazing Puppy sponsorship scheme – the perfect gift at any time of the year. You can find out a bit more about her too, in her interview with us. As ever there are humbling stories told by our partners about how their special canine friends have changed their lives, and a chance for you to meet Sunny, Magic and Buttons, who are at the forefront of our work spreading the word to young people about Canine Partners and disability in general. Could you become an Education Speaker? Or an Ambassador?

Earlier in the year we undertook a special 25th Anniversary survey asking all our 300+ partnerships which 25 tasks were the most useful that their canine partner performed for them. In addition to highlighting those simple everyday tasks that non-disabled people take for granted such as picking up dropped items, opening and closing doors and carrying items, what amazed us was the sheer diversity of tasks that our dogs end up doing on a daily basis. You can read just some of them on P11.

We put the spotlight on our fledgling breeding scheme in an interview with our Puppy Supply and Training Manager, Lyn Owen, who is also looking for volunteers to get involved with this exciting programme. And for those of you who attended one of our Summer Shows this year, take a look at the centre pages – you just might find your photo there! We thank everyone who came along and helped us raise a fantastic amount of money, and the bright sunny photos will help you through the dark winter evenings!

With the usual page of puppy pics, news of some of our events and an insight into our advanced training programme given by our Director of Operations, David Bailey, there's surely something for everyone here. Thank you for your ongoing support, and please share this magazine with your friends and family.

Andy Cook, CEO Canine Partners



caninepartners.org.uk

Contents

- Cover story
Claire Skinner
- 4 Partnership story
Derek and Olga
- 14 Claire Skinner interview
Claire talks to Jenny Moir about her career and her love of dogs
- 16 Summer Shows round up
Didn't we have a lovely time
- 18 Partnership story
Ruth and Heathcliff
- 20 Events near you
Information sessions and other dates for your diary
- 22 NEW challenges
Climb every mountain
Vet in a hurry
- 26 Inspiration & guidance
We're delighted to welcome fundraiser extraordinaire, Nick Poole, in his new voluntary role as our Corporate Ambassador

Regulars

- 6 News 
- 13 Puppy file
- 28 Corporate news

Get in touch

We always love to hear from you. You can follow us on Twitter or find us on Facebook. Write to us at Mill Lane, Heyshott, West Sussex GU29 0ED or call 08456 580480





“Words can’t describe how much she means to me.”



Working partnership

After a lifetime of pain and disability, 70 year old Derek Humphreys has found his life transformed by a bundle of white fur called Olga. Here’s their story...

At the age of just 15, Gwynedd-based Derek was taken to the orthopaedic hospital in Gobowen in Shropshire. He remembers: “My walking was becoming pretty erratic and I kept falling over. Finally I was diagnosed with TB of the spine which meant there was pressure on my spinal cord. I had to have an operation which paralysed me for 18 months but was left eventually with the ability to get around, albeit with a stiff hipped gait.”

As a young adult, Derek was running a news agency and playing in a band several nights a week but, in 1999, all this came to an abrupt end. “I couldn’t walk more than 100 yards”, he tells us. “My balance was terrible and I couldn’t stand unaided. I lost all confidence and went from being a sociable person going out all the time, almost to being a recluse really.”

In 2013, Derek’s wife heard about Canine Partners and, after some initial doubts from Derek, they applied. “When I got the call to go down to the Southern Centre as they may have found a dog for me, something in me clicked; I had hope. Olga was brought in to see me and immediately started wagging her tail. I couldn’t believe that this bundle of white fur was really going to be mine. After the two weeks of training, I took her home the day before my 69th birthday – a day I’ll certainly never forget.”

Derek says that his life has now changed immeasurably. “Olga helps me in so many ways. She helps me get dressed, opens all the doors for me and picks up everything that I drop which is a godsend for my wife who had to do all that before.

“When we’re out and about, we get so much attention. I can count on one hand the number of days that I haven’t been out with her – such a difference from the old hermit I’d become!

“I feel so much happier since little Olga came into my life. When I have a bad pain day, I know that she will be there for me as I am for her. I can’t thank enough the staff, puppy parents, foster parents and all those people who give up their time and put in so much effort to make sure that people like me have a damn sight better life than before. Thank you for everything you have done for me and for countless others too. It really is very much appreciated.”



Let's Go! News and events



Chess with a twist

Musical theatre star and Radio 2 broadcaster, Elaine Paige OBE delighted the audience with a superb performance at London's Charterhouse on June 11

The performance was one of the highlights of our K9 Chess event organised by Lady Pearson of Rannoch which saw dogs standing in for chess pieces outside the ancient building in Smithfield. The game was fought out between Grandmaster Ray Keene OBE and International Master Malcolm Pein who seemed to enjoy their unusual chess pieces.

The event, which included an auction featuring lots such as a day with the RAF, a trip to Africa on the Samara Private Game Reserve, a week in Corfu and tickets to the men's singles final at Wimbledon, raised an incredible £114,000 for Canine Partners.



**Draycott
Carol Service**
16 December 6.30pm
The Guards Chapel,
London

with readings from Fiona Fullerton, David Robb
and Colonel Blashford-Snell OBE
To find out more and to book tickets
caninepartners.org.uk
/carolservice



Come to dinner!

Everyone loves the excuse to get together around the table and we're no exception. To help us raise much needed funds in this our 25th anniversary year we're hoping to register 250 dinner parties throughout the month of October.

Its easy to take part, just register your event online at caninepartners.org.uk/25, invite your guests, ask them each for a donation and sit back and enjoy the evening! You will also find details of our online auction on our website. We can help with games and themes, all you need to do is host the event in your home or get together with friends to hire a hall or other venue.

Thank you!

caninepartners.org.uk

Wheelpower

Tenacious cyclists, Kev Duffield, Aaron Smith, Mark Haplik and Phil Stannard showed their stamina by cycling the 190 miles between our Southern and Midland Centres this summer. The four left the centre at Heyshott on Saturday 28 June arriving at the Midlands Centre in Osgathorpe, Leicestershire on Sunday 29 June completing the challenge in less than 24 hours.

They were supported by Chris Lovitt and Shelagh Cormack who rode a tandem from Hemel Hempstead to Osgathorpe as well as Paul Phillips and Lister Williams who pedalled from Bedford to the Midlands. Between them, they raised more than £1000 for the Charity.

CEO Andy Cook, who was in the support vehicle throughout the journey, said, "This was an amazing challenge completed by an amazing group of people."



Cricket capers

In the summer, Lady Herries of Terregles co-hosted an evening of music, drinks, raffle and silent auction at the spectacular cricket ground at Arundel Castle in West Sussex. Organiser Milly Boxley was thrilled with the attendance; around 250 people went along, and the event raised a superb £4,211. Milly said: "We were very pleased to welcome along Marc the Vet from Channel 4 as well as Sussex County cricketer, Lewis Hatchett (pictured right), who helped us to auction amazing lots such as a signed Sussex shirt, a framed Crystal Palace football shirt, tickets to Fontwell racecourse and a makeover with renowned make up artist to many supermodels, Victoria Cassidy. Thanks to Sims Williams who sponsored the event."

"A wonderful occasion for Canine Partners at Arundel Castle Cricket Ground. 250 supporters, dogs demonstrating skills, drinks, canapés and sunshine. Beautiful views - a joy for all and hugely important for developing and sustaining confidence and independence. About as good as it gets!"

Johnny Barclay (Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club)

caninepartners.org.uk

Tiptoeing through the bluebells



Photo: Alison F Hepburn

The Big Glasgow Bluebell Walk raised a fantastic £2,700. The walk, which wound its way around Rouken Glen Park in Giffnock saw a turnout of 100 people and their dogs. Walkers included abandoned dog Kai who was seen on the national news last May having been left tied to a suitcase at Ayr station.

Scotland Regional Fundraiser, Dale Gormley, said, "We are so grateful to everyone who joined us - it was a fantastic turnout and thankfully the weather was kind!"

The walk was part of the Charity's national Big Bluebell Walk Campaign which has raised more than £150,000 since its inception 11 years ago.



Back to school

Under the guidance of Education Officer, Stacey Cullen, our new team of Education Ambassadors and Speakers are doing a sterling job visiting schools and youth groups ensuring that a whole new generation is aware of the work we do...

Just started this year, the Education Programme offers talks as well as a heap of resources, activities and teaching materials to schools and youth groups nationwide. Our dedicated team of volunteers have been trained as Education Speakers and Education Ambassadors who are excited about the topic and keen to pass on their passion to young people of all ages.

The Ambassadors are given the task of managing specific areas, contacting schools and groups such as Beavers, Brownies, Scouts and Guides offering talks and workshops which can take place in assembly or in the classroom, as well as recruiting new Speakers. The Speakers carry out the appointments sometimes with and sometimes without a demonstration dog but always armed with all the resources they need to give a lively, informative and inspiring short talk.

Stacey said: "The new team are a wonderful group of volunteers who give up their time to visit schools and youth groups on our behalf. Some are our partners who have been matched with a canine partner, others are volunteer puppy parents; some are long term supporters of our charity and others are recent recruits who just want to get involved and are keen to raise awareness of what we do."

One such pair of Speakers is Sue and Andy Simms who visit schools with their yellow Labrador, Toffee, a demo dog. Andy said: "We have been puppy parents too so have been associated with Canine Partners for some time now. We go into schools and are always delighted at the reception we get from the children; especially Toffee who loves to perform for them!

"We are given all the back up and resources we could possibly need and it's great fun to talk to the children. I can highly recommend it. Even the little children ask really sensible questions and we hope we're creating the seed of a whole new generation of supporters so that

Canine Partners can carry on their invaluable work for many years to come."

Part of those resources are fun cartoon dogs created especially for the Education Programme. The cartoon dogs are the same breeds as those most often used by the Charity; Buttons is a chocolate Labrador, Magic a black labradoodle and Sunny a golden retriever and they're used across all of the flyers, worksheets and activity materials.

With demand for talks and workshops increasing rapidly, Stacey is keen to recruit more Education Ambassadors and Education Speakers, particularly in Devon and Cornwall, Essex, East Anglia, The Midlands (East and West), Yorkshire and the Cumbria and Northumberland regions. Stacey says: "We're looking for people who are good communicators, adaptable, self-motivated, reliable and able to work on their own or as part of a team. Ideally they should have some experience of working with children and an understanding of mobility issues. Use of their own transport is essential as is access to email.

"We are more than happy to match our Speakers with the age of children to whom they would like to talk," Stacey goes on, "and we can pair people up if they'd rather do talks as a duo. Talks can take place in the evening at youth groups meaning even people in full time employment can help us in this way if they'd prefer. There are no age restrictions as long as our volunteers are over 18 and able to get around under their own steam in the case of the Speakers. Our Education Ambassadors can be entirely home-based. We offer a full training programme and supply all the resources as well as ongoing support and guidance."

If you'd like to know more, simply get in touch with Stacey either by calling her direct line, 01730 716103 or via email: staceyc@caninepartners.org.uk Please note that applicants for these roles will need to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service application.

Magic, Buttons and Sunny - our cartoon dogs used on all educational resources



Buttons tugging a sock off



Sunny withdrawing cash



Buttons helping with the laundry



Magic fetching the keys



25 reasons to love our canine partners

As you know, this year is our 25th anniversary and we've come up with many ways to celebrate our milestone birthday. One of the ways was our special survey - we asked our partners to name the 25 most useful tasks their canine partner does for them. As you'll see, hitting the top spot was 'picking up dropped items' with a huge 90% of respondents including that in their chosen 25 but you'll notice, that it's not only practical help - emotional support scores highly too. Here's the top 25...

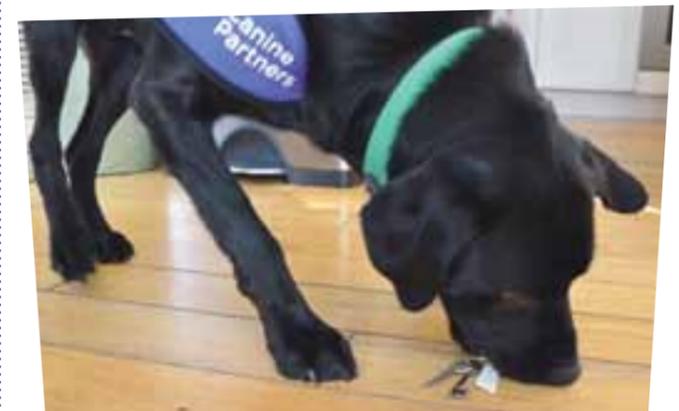
- 1 Picking up dropped items
- 2 Carrying items from one place to another
- 3 Undressing
- 4 Opening doors
- 5 Closing doors/unloading washing machine (joint)
- 6 Getting the post
- 7 Retrieving items
- 8 Taking shoes and socks off/giving partner confidence (joint)
- 9 Helping with shopping and giving purse to cashier
- 10 Fetching the phone/emotional support (joint)
- 11 Fetching other people and getting help
- 12 Making partner laugh or smile
- 13 Putting wheelchair footplate up or down
- 14 Changing people's attitude to partner
- 15 Giving partner reason to go out
- 16 Retrieving card or receipt from ATM/pressing door opening pads at shops/tidying toys away (joint)
- 17 Taking items to and from people/loading washing machine (joint)
- 18 Pressing lift buttons/giving love and affection (joint)
- 19 Offering friendship and companionship
- 20 Bringing food bowl over after eating/making partner feel safe (joint)
- 21 Picking up crutch and handing to partner
- 22 Getting things out of cupboards/pushing switches and buttons (joint)
- 23 Washing routine - putting washing in basket, taking basket outside, handing pegs to partner
- 24 Helping partner out of bed or chair/making sure partner is never lonely (joint)
- 25 Pushing partner's legs onto the bed/allowing partner time away from carers (joint)

Although these didn't make the top 25 list, we loved hearing about other things our canine partners do -

- Tugging the duvet on or off
- Fetching the towel when partner is showering
- Helping partner to stand up
- Undoing shoelaces or straps
- Closing the dishwasher
- Helping to turn the partner over in bed
- Taking mugs and cups to the kitchen
- Unpacking the shopping
- Pulling letters out of envelopes
- Opening curtains
- Letting the cat in and out
- Pushing the partner's arm back onto the armrest
- Handing bus pass to driver
- Moving chairs out of the way in shops and cafes
- Lifting up partner's arm when showering

Perhaps most importantly to us were the responses which underlined the emotional and psychological support our dogs bring - alleviating stress, problem solving, helping pain relief and giving the partner hope for a better future.

Thank you for your support in helping us to make these life changing tasks and support a reality.



Early days of our own breeding programme

We spoke to Puppy Supply & Training Manager Lyn Owen, to find out more about Canine Partners' embryonic breeding programme...



Lyn is heading up the Charity's move to breed our own puppies for training. She explains: "By doing this we are able to be much more selective about the parents we use, which increases the chances of getting puppies with the qualities we are looking for and that means we can be more confident that the puppies will progress successfully through the puppy and advanced stages of training. Obviously, it is not an exacting science and there are no guarantees, but it is certainly a good start!"

Currently Canine Partners has eight broods (bitches selected for breeding) that have been specially chosen due to their good health and sound temperament. The broods will have been monitored closely during the puppy training phase to ensure they possess the necessary characteristics required of a canine partner and the health and temperament of their parents and litter mates (brothers and sisters) – will also have been checked. The brood will undergo numerous non invasive health checks to make sure their hips, elbows, eyes are all healthy. The Charity also jointly owns two broods with The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. They have been breeding their own puppies for many years and they have shared some of their expertise with our team.

Lyn goes on to explain: "All the puppies we are breeding at the moment are Labradors and Labrador cross golden retrievers; although we hope to breed some pure bred golden retrievers at some point in the future. One of our broods has just had her fourth litter and as such is now about to retire, whilst another has just been matched with a stud and should have puppies in the near future, so they are all at different stages. The broods are placed with, and are looked after by, volunteer brood bitch holders, who do

an amazing job of caring for them before, during and after the birth. There is a great deal to do while the puppies are in the nest (the time from when they are born until they are placed with their volunteer puppy parents at approximately seven weeks of age). As well as cleaning, weaning and starting their toilet training, it is vital the brood bitch holder handles the puppies regularly and introduces them to a variety of different sounds, smells and textures. Through play with their litter mates the puppies will learn important skills they will need to help them develop into successful canine partners. While the puppies are in the nest they will be visited weekly by the Breeding and Supply Assistant, who will provide support to the brood bitch holder and will ensure the brood and puppies are healthy and progressing well.

"This is just the beginning of the breeding programme and it is an exciting and important part of Canine Partners future plans, as it will enable us to screen out any potential behaviour or health problems in a way that we cannot always do when we obtain our puppies from external sources."

If you would like to find out more about the breeding programme, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer brood bitch holder, then we are keen to hear from you. The only stipulation is you must be able to devote the time to looking after the puppies for the seven weeks while they are in the nest and this might mean, if you work, being able to take time off to meet this commitment. So, if that is you, please contact the Puppy Office at puppyoffice@caninepartners.org.uk; or call 01730 716017.



Puppy file New recruits



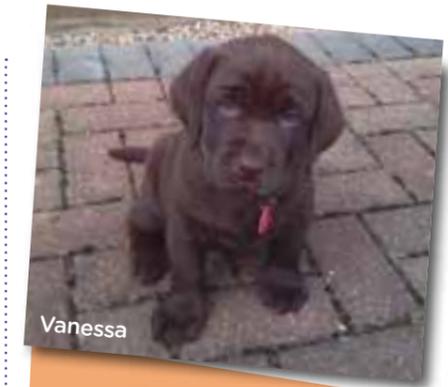
Upton

'I've been rushed off my paws today...'



Ula

'I'm quackers about my toy duck.'



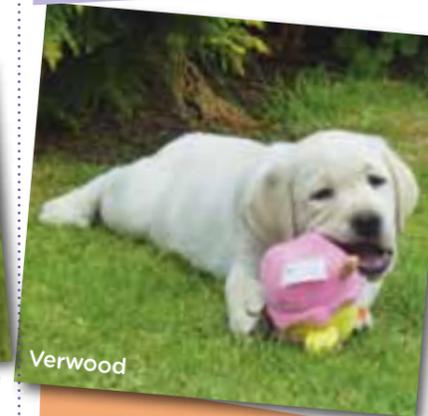
Vanessa

'Are you ready for more fun?'



Verdi

'Don't stop me now!'



Verwood

'Ooh I love a good chewing session.'



Vince

'Have you got my best side?'



Waveney

'Your plants are coming along very nicely.'



Wallis

'Ah, a nice sit down.'



Winnie

'Could I be any more cute?'

Interview with Claire Skinner

Actress Claire Skinner, who is best known for her role as the long-suffering mother in the BBC comedy *Outnumbered*, had a chat with our Head of Communications, Jenny Moir, to talk about her career and her love of dogs.

How did you get into acting, and have you always wanted to be an actor?

I got into acting at school and acted in clubs outside of school. I used to dress up at home and invent characters and then I auditioned for drama school when I was old enough. I had always wanted to act since I was about seven. I like inventing characters and monologues, and doing impressions and impersonations of people, and as I was a shy child this was quite a useful thing to have. It was nice to pretend to be someone else. I used to do impressions at school of people on the TV and teachers. It was like a refuge being someone else.

Which do you enjoy most – comedy or drama?

I do enjoy both and often when I am doing something sad or even tragic, it ends up being funny offstage because you need to laugh. For example, if I am in something like Ibsen we have the best laugh offstage – better than when I am in a comedy! Sometimes when in a comedy you find yourself obsessing about why you didn't get a laugh one evening. Having said that, I do enjoy both comedy and drama.

I've recently appeared in a play called *The Father* by Florian Zeller, and it is about an elderly man struggling with his memory. It does have moments of humour but is quite a confronting piece about Alzheimers Disease.

What was it like being in a programme as popular as *Outnumbered*?

It was fantastic and people still stop me today and chat about it. It was such a lovely job: lovely kids, Hugh Dennis was great fun, and the writing was brilliant. An all round lovely job. When I get stopped it is generally speaking a warm response to the programme, which ran for five years.

I believe some of the exchanges within the family were improvised and not scripted – what was that like?

There was a script and then when the children came into the story there would be improvisation about the issue we had just been talking about, and they shot acres of footage which the editors then had to cut all together! It was set up to revolve around the children: everyone made sure they were comfortable, the crew was small, and the scenes were based around them.

Tell us about your relationship with dogs.

The last company I worked with was really interesting because everyone was as nuts as me about dogs, and we just talked dog all the time! We shared dog photos – one had two pugs, one had a spaniel, and it was lovely to find people who didn't think you were in some way simple-minded! I had a dog as a child and I longed for a dog as an adult, and when I had my own children I could finally have a dog. They bring so much love into the house and home. I can't imagine living without a dog any more. I have got Fred, a 10-year-old black Lab who is the best dog in the world, closely followed by Ensign, who we look after from time to time who belongs to my father-in-law the actor Geoffrey Palmer. Ensign was rehomed from Canine Partners to Geoffrey and his wife Sally and they adore him! Sally refers to my dog Fred as Uncle Fred when Ensign comes to stay!

How did you get involved with Canine Partners?

I got involved via Geoffrey when I went to a Canine Partners event at the Inner Temple. At the time I was struck by how amazing the dogs are, but then you talk to the partners or you hear a partner talk about their relationship with their dog and that's the thing that knocks you off your feet. How the dog has changed their lives in the practical sense, and also the emotional attachment. That's incredibly powerful.

You've seen many demonstrations of how a canine partner helps – what impresses you most about how they help their disabled owners?

The closeness and the dog being by their side in more ways than one: the dog trotting at the right pace for the wheelchair; the fact they are attuned to that person and listening out and watching for signs of being needed. That's the most amazing thing. Then when I see them doing the incredible things – opening the washing machine and taking socks off, and other tasks like that, it is almost extra.

You are helping to promote our regular giving scheme - My Amazing Puppy. What do you think is so important about it?

I think it is important to give as many people who need the help of a canine partner as possible the chance to have one of these amazing dogs. These dogs would not be available without the training which needs regular funding. The more people who can benefit from one of these dogs, the better.

Read Claire's appeal on behalf of My Amazing Puppy on P30



Didn't we have a lovely time?

The sun shone on our two Summer Shows this year and it was wonderful to see so many happy faces at our Southern Centre and for the first time, at our Midlands Centre too.

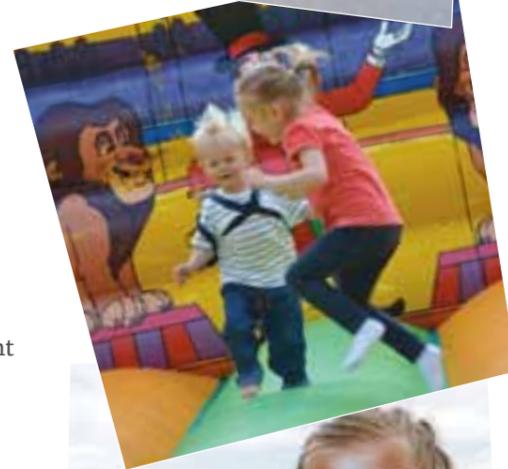
Across both venues, crowds took part in welly wanging, a wheelchair obstacle course and pet dog agility competitions.

The first show was at our Southern Centre near Midhurst, West Sussex. Over 1,000 people attended on a dry, warm day. Visitors enjoyed a busy Kids Zone as well as our fun dog show and we were delighted to raise £10,000.

Around 400 people went along to our newly completed Midlands Centre in Osgathorpe, Leicestershire later on in July. They enjoyed the summery sounds of The Three Wrens and the Leicestershire Co-op Training Band as well as demonstrations, refreshments, face painting, raffle and tombola too.

The Mayor of Charnwood 2014/15, Paul Day, kindly presented a cheque to us for a fantastic £3,000, which, together with the £3,500 raised on the day meant the Midlands Summer Show raised a superb £6,500.

Thank you!



A new lease of life for Ruth

Little did married mother of two, Ruth Geary realise how much her life was going to change during a night out in 2007...

Busy working mother Ruth was living life to the full. She was working in sales and marketing for a pharmaceutical company and enjoyed family days out in the great outdoors. During that fateful night out, she fell from a banister and immediately became tetraplegic meaning her body was paralysed from the neck down with limited use of the arms and no movement at all in her fingers. She said: "Following a six month stay in hospital I was discharged back into the world a shadow of my former self."

Ruth was left as a single mother helped by carers. Ruth remembers: "I felt embarrassed by my new life. I felt guilty that I couldn't look after my children on my own and had to be accompanied everywhere by a carer, however well meaning they were. I felt I had nothing to offer anyone; nothing to talk about and even avoided eye contact so that I wouldn't have to get involved with anybody in conversation."

After a period of coming to terms with her new life, Ruth realised that she would have to make some changes. She describes this moment as 'switching on the on button'. In 2010, she enrolled on an MA course in counselling. At the same time, her mother rang her to tell her about a programme she'd seen about assistance dogs. Ruth watched it too and began researching Canine Partners. Soon she was filling in the application form and travelled to the Southern Centre for her assessment. "I was worried that the trainers would think I couldn't look after a dog," she says, "but I needn't have as the trainer had every confidence in me. I felt on top of the world, for the first time since my accident, someone had said I was good at something!"

In the summer of 2013 Ruth got the call saying that a potential canine partner had been identified. She recalls: "I went back to the Centre and they brought in a very regal looking Labrador retriever with a big head and a kind face. He was adorable, a real gentle giant." Next followed two weeks of intensive training then finally, Heathcliff came into Ruth's life on 7 October 2013.

"Now I no longer have to rely on carers so much," Ruth continues. "Heathcliff has given me back some independence. We go to the shops together unaccompanied, something I could never have dreamed of doing before he came to me. He is a hit in the local butchers which I haven't been to for seven years because it has two steps at its entrance. This is no barrier to Heathcliff, he takes a bag with some money and goes in to the shop on my behalf with a note. He even sits nicely until he is served. My bedtime routine has changed dramatically too, I go to bed when I want to and he is so helpful around the house with the washing, picking things up for me and so much more."

Ruth says that she has found a whole new lease of life. She has made new friends in the fellow dog walkers she and Heathcliff meet and never lets the weather keep her indoors. "I just wrap up warm and venture out!" she laughs.

Ruth is now a qualified counsellor and takes Heathcliff to work with her. "Many a client has sobbed out their worries whilst caressing his silky ears", Ruth says. "I feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful companion to share new experiences with me, especially as my children are now growing older and becoming more socially independent. Thank you Canine Partners and all of the Charity's supporters."



Dates for your diary!



Information sessions

Getting to know us

Here are the dates for our Information Sessions at both our Southern and Midlands Centres. These friendly sessions last around 90 minutes and consist of a presentation, short film, demonstration and a chance to hear from one of our partners about how much their canine partner has added to their life. There's free parking, you can come on your own or in a group, there's a cup of tea too and all for a suggested donation of £2.

If you would like to book a visit, **South:** Call: **01730 716051** Email: staceyc@caninepartners.org.uk
Midlands: Call: **01530 225939** Email: helenw@caninepartners.org.uk



Information Sessions 2015/2016
Southern Centre, Heyshott, W Sussex

Southern Centre		
DATE	DAY	SESSION TIME
2015		
21 October	Wednesday	11am & 2pm
2016		
8 March	Tuesday	11am & 2pm
20 April	Wednesday	11am & 2pm

Information Sessions 2015/2016
Midlands Centre, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire

Midlands Centre		
DATE	DAY	SESSION TIME
2015		
10 November	Tuesday	11am & 2pm
2016		
24 March	Thursday	11am & 2pm

Please note, if we don't reach a minimum number of 30 at each session, they may be cancelled.

Events near you...

Saturday 19 September 2015

Paws in the Park
Kent Showground, Detling, Kent ME14 3JF

Sunday 20 September 2015 3pm to 5pm

Cream Tea
Holywell Estate, Swanmore, Hampshire SO32 2QE

Sunday 20 September 2015 2pm to 5pm

Longstock Park Water Garden Open Day
John Lewis Partnership Leckford Estate,
Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6JF

Sunday 27 September 2015

10am Big Petworth Park Run
10.30am Big Petworth Park Walk
11am Bark! in the Park - National Trust event
Petworth Park, West Sussex GU28 OAE

Saturday 3 October 2015

Arundel Cathedral Animal Service
London Road, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9AY

Saturday 17 October 2015

Midlands Centre 25th Anniversary tea party
Osgathorpe, Leicestershire, LE12 9SR

Thursday 12 November 2015

Canary Woof
Come along to London's Canary Wharf,
see our dogs and find out more about our work

Thursday 3 December 2015 4.30pm to 8pm

Winter Market
Southern Centre, Heyshott, West Sussex GU29 0DF

Wednesday 16 December 2015 6.30pm

Draycott Anniversary Carol Service
Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London
SW1E 6HQ

Friday 18 December 5pm to 10pm

Midlands Centre Christmas Evening
Osgathorpe, Leicestershire, LE12 9SR

For further details go to
caninepartners.org.uk/events

Ask the expert

What is advanced training?

This issue, we talk to our resident expert David Bailey about how our dogs are finally prepared for their lives as assistance dogs...



At approximately 14 months old the sad day comes when the puppy parent has to say goodbye to their now fully grown puppy and arrangements are made for it to come in to advanced training at one of our two Centres.

Four dogs are allocated to one trainer and for the first week or so the trainer will stay on site with their new dogs, getting to know them and developing a bond before exposing the dog to the outside world. The trainers also continue the dog's development of their obedience training during this time on site.

When the trainers start to take the dogs off site for the first time, they will choose somewhere that is quiet and distraction free and this will most likely be a residential area near to one of our centres. Once again, the area is chosen to ensure the dog has a pleasant experience and they can be taught to concentrate on their handler without distractions.

As the weeks progress, the trainers will slowly move to more busy and challenging areas including covering specific situations like lifts, supermarkets, livestock etc. They will also be familiarising the dogs to a wheelchair and when they feel the dog is ready, they begin working it inside and out in one of these.

As well as going out working with the dogs, the trainers will be developing the three skills required of all canine partners which

are: retrieving, touching and tugging. Once the dogs understand these concepts then all other training can progress from there. For instance, if a dog knows how to retrieve, it can be taught to get clothes from a washing machine; if it knows how to tug, it can be taught to open the door before retrieving and so on.

After five weeks of training the dog will have its first of two tests which may be carried out by an external trainer, training manager or team leader. This will be mostly focussed on its obedience and attitude to work. At about this time, the trainers will look at who on their waiting list their dogs may suit and will begin the process of matching.

Once a match has been made, the trainers can also focus on the individual needs of that potential partner and train the dog accordingly. For instance, some owners may not need their dogs to empty the washing machine but have a real need for it to fetch help if they were in trouble. It would be impossible to train every dog to carry out every task, but by doing it like this we are able to personalise the dogs for their new owners.

All dogs are different, they all have their strengths and weaknesses and there are many factors that will influence how it will turn out. Hopefully, after 15 weeks of training, the dog will go on to lead a fulfilling and rewarding life as a canine partner.



Climb every mountain

Amazing fundraiser Paul Knifton pedalled his way up more than 600km of mountains in sunny Mallorca earlier this year and raised an incredible £1,385 for Canine Partners

Paul, 43, of Ibstock who is a weekend fosterer for the Charity's assistance dogs in training at our Midlands Centre in Osgathorpe, spent four days in May cycling in the island's mountains despite the 34 degree Celsius heat. He said: "In January this year my father, Stuart Knifton lost his fight against cancer. He was going through his cancer treatment when I started fostering assistance dogs and was very impressed with the Charity's work and how rewarding my girlfriend Dawn and I found the fostering to be.

"My dad was a big inspiration in my life; he was not only my dad, but my best mate too. When he died, he left a big void in my life. This challenge was a way to help me focus on something positive."

Paul completed the challenge with three friends, David Stokoe, Phillip Trebble and Ian Stalker. He said: "They joined me in toasting my dad at the top of the mountain which is a memory that will stay with me. On day one we covered 100km riding to the Mentor lighthouse; on day two we rode the Sa Calobra Accent. We covered 150km on day three and another 200km on day four.

"I'd like to thank everyone who supported me and who made the trip possible."



A wonderful walk

Supporter Rosalind Birtwistle and her 'cheerful' Labrador, Poppy, took up the challenge of walking the 46-mile Peddar's Way in Norfolk in aid of Canine Partners. The walk took the pair five days as they meandered through quiet woodland, got accidentally watered by a farmer watering his crops, bumped into young people carrying out their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions in Thetford Woods, met some lovely people along the way and raised a wonderful £500 into the bargain. Rosalind said, "I recommend this walk from Knettishall Heath to the coast to anyone wanting to take their dog long distance as one big advantage is that there is very little livestock or traffic."

You can read Rosalind's blog (which she writes under a pen name) by visiting pererro-travel.com/#!/walkies-on-the-peddars-way/c1f7r



Vet in a hurry

Superb triathlete, Geraldine Young, 43, raised a fantastic £1,150 by completing a triathlon and finishing first in her age group category of 40-44 years.

Geraldine, a vet, who works at Fairfield Veterinary Centre in Hinckley, completed the Chatsworth Triathlon in Derbyshire at the end of June in a time of 2 hours, 34 minutes and 37 seconds coming sixth out of 56 female entrants overall.

Geraldine said: "It was a really tough hilly course but it all went very well on the day and I was thrilled to finish first in my age group. I'd like to thank everyone who supported me. I was inspired to take on a challenge after meeting Kate Cross (pictured right with Geraldine) and her two canine partners, Byron, who has now retired, and May, her current assistance dog when they came into our veterinary surgery."

Kate said: "As my vet, Geraldine has always gone the extra mile to keep my dogs happy and healthy and now she's really gone many more extra gruelling miles to help support the Charity. I am so proud of her achievement and very grateful that she chose to do it for Canine Partners."



"It was a really tough hilly course but it all went very well on the day and I was thrilled to finish first in my age group."



Inspired to run the London Marathon

Supporter Paul Sparrow pushed through the 17-mile barrier of pain to complete the iconic London Marathon this year in aid of us. He said: "Waiting for the race to begin, it was great to read all the charity numbers telling of why people were running for their own personal cause. I was proud to be wearing the Canine Partners name.

"The race went well, although around the 17/18 mile mark I did begin to feel it."

Paul crossed the finishing line in The Mall after 4 hours 48 minutes running. He said that he was inspired to run for us having attended a demonstration at The Forum in

Norwich where he saw partner Hannah demonstrating how her dog helps her in everyday tasks. He said: "Whilst I only spent an hour or so with Canine Partners that day, I saw how her dog not only gave her a sense of normality, but also a strong bond of friendship and trust between them. This spurred me on to try and help raise money and awareness. By posting my progress through social media, I received so many positive words of encouragement and received donations that I could not give up."

Well done Paul, and thank you.

Age is no barrier to success

You may remember that we told you in our last issue about another vet, Edmund Shillabeer who was preparing to attempt to become the oldest person to complete an 85 mile trek in less than 24 hours in aid of Canine Partners? Edmund, 75, triumphed completing the difficult walk up hills and down dales in an amazing 20 hours, 54 minutes and 34 seconds finishing 76th in this year's Manx Telecom Parish Walk on the Isle of Man this June. Only 175 of the starting line up of 1,500 walkers completed the distance inside the time limit.

Edmund, of Peverell in Devon, said: "I am pleased to have been the oldest ever finisher of the walk. Coming 76th was fantastic as I had nearly 100 people behind me. I pressed on and enjoyed the walk, especially the bit in the afternoon sun. As the sun went down, the steepness of the gradients went up! I found it more difficult in the darkness and slowed up considerable and was pleased to walk the last mile along the prom which was at least flat!" He has raised a very welcome £516.12 so far. If you would like to add to this amount, go to justgiving.com/edmund-shillabeer3.



Fancy a run around beautiful Brighton and Hove?

We'd be delighted if you would like to join our team for the first ever 10-mile race through Brighton & Hove, Bright10. Canine Partners are official partners with the race organisers and so we're keen to have a good strong team. The race takes place on Sunday 18 October. We will have a marquee in the race village and can supply you with a race t-shirt and headband, fundraising resources such as collection tins, cheer sticks for your friends to cheer you in with and, of course, lots of support and gratitude. One member of the team who has already signed up is Danny Dwyer who will be completing his first challenge for the Charity. Danny, who lives and works in Brighton, is a seasoned marathon runner who has already completed the London and Brighton marathons this year.

He said: "I love to support local events and so was one of the first to sign up when the registration opened. I hadn't



heard of Canine Partners before but read up about them and then decided to make the Charity the beneficiary of my 40th birthday party at Brighton racecourse in May.

"My generous friends donated what they would have spent on my present and we raised £3,500 – we even had two demonstration dogs who came along to the party!"

"We were all very moved by what the dogs showed us they could do and so I am very happy to be running Bright10 to help the Charity provide even more dogs to help disabled people lead more independent lives."

If you would like to join Danny and the others on the Canine Partners team simply register at bright10.co.uk/canine-partners or get in touch with Holly Bryan at hollyb@caninepartners.org.uk.



Can you help us Double the Love?

Gifts in wills will help us double the number of puppies we train each year

Legacies are vital for Canine Partners. As we develop and expand, we estimate that one in every two of our dogs will be directly funded by a Legacy. We receive no government funding so we are completely reliant on people like you to help us.

By leaving us a gift in your will, no matter how big or small, you'll help us plan ahead with much greater confidence and allow us to fulfil our vision to provide an assistance dog for everyone who needs one.

To discuss leaving a gift in your will in more detail, please contact

Cat Harvey, Legacies Manager

T: 01730 716018 E: legacies@caninepartners.org.uk

Thank you



Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

Offering inspiration and guidance

You may well have read about our super supporter Nick Poole who was the driving force behind the fantastic fundraising achieved by his employer, 3M UK, as well as his many ex-colleagues, friends and loyal supporters. Together they have raised an incredible £265,000 over the past six years. Now retired, we're delighted here at Canine Partners, to welcome Nick into his new voluntary role as our Corporate Ambassador...

"That's a rather grand title," he says with typical modesty when we asked him about his new position. "All it means is that I will be visiting businesses, large or small, to hopefully pass on some of the experience I gained fundraising within my company, 3M. I'm keen too to pass on my passion for the work that Canine Partners does in transforming the lives of so many disabled people."

Nick may well have hung up his running shoes for now but they have certainly been well used. First the London Marathon in 2010, then his first Reading Half Marathon in 2011 (having last run the race in 1986), which he completed alone. But his infectious personality and passion inspired many of his colleagues, and 130 of them, aged between 17 and 62, joined him for the 2015 race. Nick's influence even extended overseas as, on the same day, he organised 20 3M employees on a sales incentive trip to Dubai to run the same distance around the streets of that city, a trip he missed due to Reading 2015.

"I loved my 33 years working at 3M", Nick explains, "and was delighted to be the main organiser of the company's support of Canine Partners. I didn't want to lose my association with the Charity and so offered my services. I would have been happy standing outside a supermarket shaking a collecting bucket but they seemed to have another role in mind for me. Now I'm hoping to pass on all the practical and presentation knowledge I gained over the years to others within their own companies. Canine Partners does such a fantastic job, and it's one that is so visible. We were able to raise money to support 10 puppies through their training and we were always kept up to date on how the dogs were doing. It is such an incredible feeling when you know that your efforts have placed a canine partner with someone whose life can only be made better by having them. I hope to be able to pass on that desire to help to others by building relationships with people and sharing my passion for the Charity's work."

"I always say that if you could bottle the euphoria and emotion felt on the days when partnerships graduate you'd make a fortune; it's so life inspiring and uplifting."

"I know what a competitive market charities are in; there are so many demands on companies to help all sorts of very deserving causes so it's down to me to try to get to the right people and work closely alongside them for however long they might choose to support Canine Partners."

Trust and Corporate Manager Cat Harvey, who has worked closely with Nick over the years, is thrilled to have him on board. She said: "This is a brand new role which we are settling into together but I am really glad to still be working with Nick who is an incredible fundraiser. We hope that businesses will be inspired to hear from someone who's been there and done all the hard work to help them to make the most of their own fundraising efforts. Nick will go into companies with demonstration dogs and use all of his talents as a professional speaker to raise awareness of what we do and how they can hopefully help us continue doing it."

"Nick has a lot of energy and I can't wait to work with him as he uses his considerable skills to inspire other potential supporters."

Nick used some of that famous energy of his when he completed the London 100 bike ride in aid of Canine Partners although, he says, his running days might now be behind him. "I'm still going to organise a team for Reading Half Marathon in 2016 though!" he laughs.

If your company would like a visit from Nick to find out how to maximise your fundraising and learn more about our work, simply contact Cat Harvey via her email catharvey@caninepartners.org.uk or by calling **01730 716018**.



We couldn't do it without you

Here's a quick round up of the work some of our corporate partners have done for us this year...

extends support to celebrate 25 life-changing years

The UK-wide pet retailer held a special two-week fundraising initiative asking all 200,000 customers to give an extra 25 pence with each purchase. Pets Corner generously doubled their donation to 50 pence if customers spent over £25. An incredible £10,000 was raised in this way with Pets Corner Brighton Racecourse gathering the most donations. We sent along puppies Kingston, Sandos and Veyron to that branch to say a big thank you.



Marathon Oil nominates Canine Partners for £5,000 donation

Generous staff at Marathon Oil chose Canine Partners to receive a donation of £5,000 after they were awarded the money in recognition of achieving their health and safety targets for 250,000 hours on their North Sea platform. Cat Harvey, Trust and Corporate Manager, said: "We are extremely grateful to receive this fantastic donation. Keith Steel, who visited us at our Southern Centre, and his colleagues on the Brae Field chose us out of a possible 31 charities. We're very grateful to them and congratulations on the award."

Charity Day

Last year, we were delighted to be asked to join in the annual event organised by Cantor Fitzgerald and their affiliate BGC Partners to commemorate the 658 friends and colleagues along with 61 Eurobrokers employees who tragically lost their lives in the World Trade Centre on 11 September 2001. After a fantastic day at Canary Wharf in September 2014 alongside celebrities Marc the Vet and former Britain's Got Talent winners Ashleigh and Pudsey, we gratefully received £3,200 from the day's fundraising.



HSBC volunteers make a big difference

Four groups of volunteers from the Southampton offices of HSBC spent four days at the Southern Centre recently.

The groups tackled many jobs such as erecting the marquee for our Summer Show, assisting at one of our Information Sessions, sorting out our large storage shed (and coming face to face with a lot of creepy crawlies in the process!), organising a big delivery from Pets at Home and painting

three large outbuildings and the gatehouse. Cat Harvey said: "The volunteers were an amazing group who took on every job with enthusiasm and a can-do approach, no matter how challenging the task. It was an absolute pleasure to meet them all and we are extremely thankful for the immense amount of help they've given us."



donates range of products

We are delighted to become one of the charities chosen to benefit from the Pets at Home VIP Lifelines scheme. We received £30,000 worth of dog beds, toys, bowls, collars, leads and much more. This will make a huge difference to all aspects of our work saving us a large amount of money.

Under the scheme, every time a Pets at Home VIP member swipes their card in store, at the vets or at the Groom Room salon; they collect points which are converted into VIP Lifelines for a pet charity of their choice. Gavin Hawthorn, Head of the VIP Club, said: "Canine Partners is an amazing charity. Thanks to the generosity of our VIP members we're able to pass on these Lifelines to charities which rely solely on donations and public support to cover crucial costs."

To nominate us to receive your VIP points, please go to petsathome.com/VIP. Thank you.



gives more Your Pet, Our Passion.



Purina continues to give us outstanding support sponsoring the uniforms for all our staff and jackets for the working and demonstration dogs as well as raising valuable funds. During 2015, they also ramped up their staff volunteering programme. Staff from their Gatwick offices came to our Southern Centre and helped us by looking after dozens of visitors, painting our kitchens, helping with a large puppy sponsorship mail out, making special packs of equipment up for new partners and manning stalls at our Summer Show.

In return we were delighted to visit the company's Gatwick offices again to give a demonstration to staff and tell them how their support is helping us change lives for the better.

If you would like to discuss how your company could get involved, please contact Cat Harvey on 01730 716018 or email catharvey@caninepartners.org.uk.

Claire Skinner supports



From my involvement with Canine Partners I know how much the Charity relies on regular donations to allow them to continue their life-changing work. One of the best ways that you can make a difference to the life of someone with a disability is by signing up to My Amazing Puppy.

You will be able to follow your own puppy through his training, receiving regular photos and updates until he is partnered with a disabled person. And if you are looking for an inspirational gift idea for a friend or loved one, what better option could there be than to give them their very own canine partner to follow while knowing that your ongoing donation will allow more people with disabilities to benefit from an amazing assistance dog.

But don't take my word for it ...

"It's hard to put into words just what Gooch has given me back but my family have seen such an enormous change in me. The tasks Gooch does now most people would take for granted but for me it's the difference of feeling good about myself and independent rather than a burden."

Karen with canine partner Gooch



"The great thing about having a canine partner is that I am safe in the knowledge that as my disability progresses and things get more difficult, Aero will be adaptable and willing to learn new things to help me. It no longer feels so scary to think about the future when I know Aero will be by my side every step of the way."

Jenny with canine partner Aero



Thank you for everything you do to help this wonderful charity.

Claire Skinner

Would you like to find out the ups and downs of how a puppy can be trained to help someone with a physical disability have a new life? You will read all about what they learn when they are young; how they sometimes get things wrong! Then see how the things they are taught as puppies suddenly turn into exciting tasks like opening a washing machine or even helping their partners with their shopping! You will have lots of gorgeous photos of them, and you will know that you are helping to make a real difference. Please... sign up today and have your very own Canine Partners puppy.

myamazingpuppy.org.uk

**Sponsor a puppy just like me
and help transform someone's life**

1 Your address details

Title: _____ First name: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone number: _____
Company name (if applicable): _____
Email: _____
Please complete to receive 'Pupdates' via email.

We would like to keep you informed of our activities and events. If you would prefer not to receive this, please tick here.

5 Is your puppy sponsorship a gift for a friend or relative?

If YES please complete recipient's details:

Title: _____ First name: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone number: _____
Send initial pack to: Payee Recipient No soft toy
Name you'd like on the certificate: _____
Age: _____ Date to be received by: _____
Personal message: _____
From (Mum, Dad, etc.): _____
Their email: _____
Please complete if they'd like to receive 'Pupdates' via email.
Please allow 14 days for UK delivery.

2 Choose your amazing puppy!

Put a tick in the box by the puppy you'd like to sponsor.

Mack

"I'm playful and mischievous but I know I've got what it takes to become an amazing assistance dog!"

Maverick

"I can't wait to learn lots of new things so that I can help people!"

6 Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

Please complete form and send to:
FREEPOST NAT2989, Midhurst GU29 0BR

Branch Sort Code: _____ Bank/Building Society account no.: _____

To the Manager of:
(Name and address of Bank/Building Society)

Postcode: _____

Service user number
8 3 9 7 9 4

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Canine Partners Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Canine Partners and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s): _____
Date: _____
Admin Ref: _____

The Direct Debit Guarantee - This guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

This guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits. If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Canine Partners will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited as an alternative agreed. If you request Canine Partners to cancel a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit to Canine Partners or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to you must use it back when Canine Partners asks you to. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to or phoning your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please inform Canine Partners.

3 I would like to sponsor a puppy

One-off donation/payment (£52 annually) £ _____ amount
Add £10 for overseas postage
Please make cheques payable to: Canine Partners /
or I would prefer to pay by: Mastercard / Visa / CAF Charity Card
Card no.: _____
Expiry date: MMYY Security code: ____
Signed: _____ Date: _____

Direct Debit

£1 a week (£4.34 a month) £10 a month £15 a month
Other £ _____ a month
Please debit my account each month starting on the: DDMMYY

4 giftaid it for past, present & future donations

I would like Canine Partners to treat as Gift Aid donations and reclaim tax on all qualifying gifts of money made today (Please tick all boxes you wish to apply):

Today in the past 4 years in the future

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I declare I have paid or will pay at least of income Tax under Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (8 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I declare to will receive in my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 5% of tax on every £1 that I give up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 3% of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

A SHARED PASSION FOR PETS

As a company of pet-lovers, here at PURINA® we are dedicated to helping pets and people be better together – from investing in advancing pet nutrition and sharing pet care advice, to supporting the pet welfare community to help bring about better care and understanding for pets. That's why we've been proud supporters of Canine Partners since 2000. Like them we know how enriching the relationship with a pet can be.

Our passion for pets sees many of our own employees bring their dogs to work every day. This really helps us maintain a healthy work-life balance. For example, it is a good opportunity to get outside more often and take more walks. In addition, studies have indicated that employees who bring pets to work show fewer signs of stress. That could be because pets help us relax and to meet new people. There are benefits for our pets as well. They get to socialise with new people and play with other pets while enjoying more daily activity and more time with the owner they love.



Max is one dog who enjoys coming into work with his owner, PetCare Advisor Gemma Gillingham. "It's wonderful being able to have Max with me every day", she says. "I haven't been with PURINA® for long but knowing

that I can still offer him the care and attention he needs throughout the day is really important to me. There's even a dog garden which PURINA® created to offer our dogs the chance to get some fresh air and to exercise and socialise with other dogs in the office."

Created earlier this year, 'Scentral Bark' provides a doggy oasis, a green space which we know our dogs and their owners really enjoy. All the plants in the garden were specially selected to help encourage wildlife into the area and it even has a wormery to help recycle waste. Having their dogs with them in the office is something our people love, so it was vital we provided an enhanced environment for them.

Having experienced the benefits first-hand of having pets at work, we are looking to further expand the initiative within our organisation and with time, hope to inspire other businesses to adopt the idea too.



Find out more at www.purina.co.uk or call the PURINA PetCare Team free on 0800 212 161 (Monday-Friday 8am-6pm).

* Reg. Trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.