



Join our Pets At Work Alliance today.

Imagine a future where pets and people are even better together. A future where taking your pet to work is the norm for most people, not just a lucky few. At Purina® we live and breathe Pets at Work - and we want to help make it a possibility for everyone.

So go onto www.purina.co.uk to download the pets at work toolkit and turn your office pet-friendly today!



Welcome

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Let's Go! for 2019. As we approach the start of our 30th year, it is a good time to reflect on all that we have achieved as a charity and everything we aspire to achieve in the future.



The vision of our founders has now become two purpose-built training centres, 11 puppy satellites, a network of over 1,000 volunteers and over 440 amazing dogs transforming lives on a daily basis. We hope they would be proud that Canine Partners has supported over 800 individuals with physical disabilities to lead more independent lives.

However, there is still much more to be done to enable us to reach even more people across the UK and increase the impact that we can deliver.

With the imminent completion of the new kennels at our Midlands Training Centre, we hope to increase the number of partnerships we create a year to over 80 in 2020.

Our volunteers are crucial to the success of our charity in whatever part they play and we have invested in our first Volunteering Development Manager as we grow our volunteering programme.

During 2020 we will be celebrating everything that has already been achieved while focusing our efforts on raising our profile; ensuring we are fit for the future and growing our income to ensure we can create even more life-transforming partnerships for the next 30 years.

Thank you for whatever part you play in our journey, we have an exciting future ahead.



Inside this issue...



Help us Raise the Woof on our new kennels



Behind the scenes with our puppies



Meet our cover stars David and Tessie

Get in touch... We always love to hear from you.

You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube YouTube and Instagram. Write to us at: Canine Partners, Mill Lane, Heyshott, West Sussex, GU29 OED. Or call 08456 580 480.

Canine Partners, registered charity in England and Wales (803680) and Scotland (SC039050). A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales company number 2516146.

Partnership story

Jon and Baxter

In 2007, Jon Giemza-Pipe was injured while serving in Iraq as a Major in the Royal Artillery. His injury meant that Jon was medically discharged from the forces after 22 years of service.

Now, three years after leaving the army, Jon talks about his life with a spinal injury and how his canine partner Baxter, and his predecessor Toby, saved his life.

"I was mourning the loss of my former life as I was always very outgoing, robust and enjoyed being outside. Suddenly I found that unfortunately being in a wheelchair meant a lot of things became, not impossible to do, but a lot harder to do. I started to isolate myself.

"Having had a canine partner before, who I sadly lost to illness, I had some ideas of what to expect. I had Toby before for about three years and he completely saved my life. I know it's one of those phrases that people use a lot, but in terms of depression and isolation it was a massive thing for me.



"Meeting Baxter for the first time was absolutely incredible. One of the great things about having a canine partner is you end up doing things which you need to do because you're looking after a dog but it's also massively beneficial to you. Getting out in the fresh air on a regular basis is not something that you might want to do because it's too difficult or it's going to hurt, but Baxter has helped me get back into society and start living the life that I've now got.

"Things like going to London Waterloo Station, which is my idea of hell. I went there on my own in a wheelchair and I felt overwhelmed. I felt like I disappeared into the noise and into the crowd there. But with Baxter, I've got something else to concentrate on. I walked him through the crowd and all of a sudden I was through the people and hadn't even noticed it. They'll move and give you a bit more space – all of a sudden it's like people realise you're there. I think the psychological benefit of having the dog is one of the biggest and most profound.

"There was a real problem with me ending up in a wheelchair – I felt very much separated and that everything was too difficult. With Baxter I don't think there's anything I can't do. It's nice because all of a sudden I'm not hiding away; I'm actually standing out a bit more. I don't feel like I need someone to come with me to give me that confidence boost for when I am out and about

"These dogs are incredible and the tagline 'Amazing Dogs.
Transforming Lives' for Canine
Partners is not just a tagline. It's all done with such an air of love and positivity that it's infectious. I've ended up with an absolutely amazing dog who changes my life on a daily basis."

Watch Jon and Baxter's story on YouTube at: youtube.com/ukcaninepartners

Jon and Baxter's partnership is kindly sponsored by Baxter Healthcare, Help for Heroes and Wilko.



Military veterans

Canine Partners is working in partnership with Help for Heroes, The Royal British Legion and other armed forces organisations to provide assistance dogs for veterans and those wounded in service.

At the end of 2018, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity granted Canine Partners £27,600 to enable us to continue to provide ongoing care for our current Royal Navy and Royal Marines veterans partnered with our dogs.

This generous grant gives veterans with a canine partner and their dependants ongoing support and training in their home for the working lifetime of the partnership.

We look forward to continuing to work together with armed forces charities to assist more servicemen and women in the coming years.



Let's Raise the Woof!

A growing demand for our amazing dogs meant that in January 2012, Canine Partners identified a site near Loughborough in Leicestershire, to help increase our training capability.

Now, the Midlands Training Centre is even closer to completion with the brand new kennel block build underway.

We've launched our Raise the Woof Appeal to raise the £900,000 to pay for the complete kennel block build, inside and out, including access and landscaping. The new kennels will open in early 2020 and we are now looking to raise the final funds needed to complete this vital project.

We are the only assistance dog charity in the UK with a training facility located in the East Midlands specifically to train assistance dogs for adults with physical disabilities. The new kennels will provide a permanent environment for our dogs during Advanced Training, to help them learn faster and improve success rates.

Our ambition is to increase the number of partnerships each year and the need for our own purpose built kennels is now more urgent than ever.

When the new kennels are completed, we will be able to train and partner three times as many dogs.

The location is far more accessible and practical for those living in the northern half of mainland UK, as it can be a long journey to our Southern Training Centre in West Sussex.

The new kennels will replace the temporary housing used until now, and they will also provide a better working environment for our Dog Welfare and Training teams. With food, grooming and cleaning equipment in the same

The kennel block design will give the charity the ability to keep ahead of demand for the growing number of dogs required to enter Advanced Training in the years to come.





building, the Dog Welfare team will have more time to focus on environment enrichment, settling in new dogs and training. All of which will make the dogs keener to learn, more relaxed and able to progress through their training programme.

The new kennels will mean we are able to train more dogs to transform more lives.



What will the new kennels help us do?

- Routine veterinary visits will be carried out in the veterinary room within the kennels, reducing the need to transport the dogs to and from the vets
- We will be able to house up to 48 dogs at any one time, allowing extra dogs to come in for training
- We predict over 2,000 dogs will enter the kennels over the next 25 years



Can you help?

We are in the final stages of this vital project - we are asking for support to raise the remaining funds to complete these much needed facilities.

- £8 will buy a drinking bowl for the kennels
- # £100 will buy a dog bed for the new kennels
- # £1,000 will help to buy equipment for the veterinary room

To find out more or to donate to the Raise the Woof appeal and help complete the build: visit

caninepartners.org.uk/raisethewoof

raisethewoof@caninepartners.org.uk or call

01730 716026

Meet Welly, sponsored by David Wilson Homes

The quality housebuilder,
David Wilson Homes, has recently
signed up to become a strategic
partner, bringing vital funds
and specialist expertise and
volunteering time to support
our Midlands Training Centre.

David Wilson Homes is based in Coalville, Leicestershire, and is part of Barratt Developments Plc. The company has kindly donated £50,000 to support the new kennel build and to sponsor the costs of one of our assistance dogs from puppy to partnership. We have named one of our puppies-in-training Wellington, or 'Welly' as he is affectionately known, after the Golden Retriever in the company's own logo.

Richard Brooke, Regional Managing Director at David Wilson Homes, said: "We are thrilled to be able to support Canine Partners with our donation and are already enjoying hearing the progress our puppy, Wellington, is making.

"This well-deserving charity works tirelessly to provide disabled people with more independence and a better quality of life by giving them an assistance dog, and we are proud to be getting behind such a worthy cause.

"We are delighted to be able to support Canine Partners as they are a fantastic organisation.

"We want to lead the industry not just in the quality of the homes and developments we build, but also in our work with charities and good causes throughout the UK."

John Reddington, Managing Director of David Wilson Homes East Midlands, is also organizing a large team of volunteers to help with landscaping and other projects to develop the site.

We look forward to working together through 2020 and beyond.









Sponsor a puppy and help to transform someone's life



myamazingpuppy.org.uk

Would you like to help change someone's life forever, with the gift of support, companionship, confidence and independence?

Through our **My Amazing Puppy** scheme, you can help start one of our puppies on an incredible journey to become a fully trained assistance dog – for just £60 a year.

This festive season, we welcome two new puppies, Comet and Cupid.

Comet loves to be curled up trying to get treats out of his Kong, while Cupid is full of energy and always out in the garden playing with his frisbee.

Choose which puppy to follow through their first year of training.

With your support, Canine Partners can purchase and train more amazing assistance dogs and change more lives. As a special thanks for your generosity, you will receive:

- a soft toy puppy
- a special personalised certificate
- a photograph of your chosen pup
- Quarterly 'pupdate' newsletters during their first year of training



My Amazing puppy also makes the perfect gift - why not sponsor a puppy for a special someone in your life?

Just £60 can help start a puppy on their journey to becoming an amazing, life-transforming dog.

Visit myamazingpuppy.org.uk or call 01730 716019 to sign up today.

Available from 01 October to 31 December 2019





amazing puppy Which amazing puppy will you sponsor?









Jane had to find a way to love life again, and it all began when she met Damson.

"Ten years ago I was a busy person whose life revolved around my family, my job as a teacher and my hobbies of tennis and gardening. It all changed forever in just one day as a sudden terrible backache nearly killed me.

"After three months in hospital fighting infection followed by another five months in a spinal rehab unit, it became clear that I would never walk again. I had lots of positive support around me from my husband Richard, family, friends and medical professionals, but the reality hit me when I got home.

"I was suddenly dependent on others for so much and the outside world became a scary, intimidating place. I found myself immersed in a world of wheelchairs, hoists, carers and access problems. There were times of utter despair and desperation.

"Sometimes I look back and wonder how I got through it. I would often hide how I felt from friends and family, crying myself to sleep most nights and waking from dreams in which I was never in a wheelchair. I have always been an optimist but I did come close to becoming a 'glass half empty' person, especially after a second terrible blow when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2011.

"Since I was partnered with Damson in July 2013, time has flown by and when I look back I realise that I am a different person in so many ways. I used to be self-conscious in social

situations and wouldn't leave the house. I would suffer from terrible backache and I would cry most days as I was yearning for a 'normal' life.

"Now, I love going out with Damson by my side. I stop and chat to everyone and we take the bus into town together, where we go to the shops and meet friends for lunch. I have organised coffee mornings to raise money for Canine Partners, I give talks about the charity's work and I have even been featured on a TV programme on STV.

"In a practical sense my life has changed too. Damson picks up all the things I drop throughout the day, passes me my gardening tools, and pulls my wheelchair to me. Most importantly, Damson coming into my life has given me confidence, independence, hope for the future and lots of unconditional love.

"With my beautiful girl by my side, I have come to terms with my 'different' self. Damson has given me a purpose and has taught me to love life again."

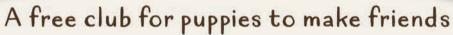
Leave a legacy Transform a life

Leaving a legacy in your will is a positive way to make a huge difference to someone like Jane. Find out more about leaving a gift in your will or in memory of a loved one on the next page.





The home of PUPPY HOUSE



Every Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 at your local PetsCorner



Meet other puppy owners and socialise your pup under 18 weeks, try out puppy products and get expert puppy advice, as well as see our huge range of Natural pet foods and high quality, long lasting products.

KEEPING BRITAIN'S PETS HEALTHY



BETTER VALUE THROUGH QUALITY

To find out more visit your nearest store or petscorner.co.uk

Leave a legacy Transform a life

Leaving a gift in your will is a positive way to make a huge difference to someone's life. As a charity we rely solely on the generosity of our supporters, and legacy donations are a vital source of funding for us.



© Newcastle Chronicle

So, what better way to be part of our future than by leaving a gift in your will. You can be assured that your gift will be invested in creating and maintaining partnerships between disabled people and our amazing assistance dogs.

Give the gift that lasts a lifetime

A gift in your will could make a substantial contribution to our work, long into the future. Leaving a gift in your will may also help reduce the Inheritance Tax liability of your estate for your loved ones and beneficiaries. Please ensure you do get financial or legal advice to assess your circumstances appropriately.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your will, visit caninepartners.org.uk/giftsinwills or call 01730 716051 or email legacies@caninepartners.org.uk

Donating In Memory

Giving a gift in memory is a lasting and very special way to remember a loved one. It honours their memory whilst supporting a cause that was important to them.

Visit caninepartners.org.uk/giving-inmemory to download our In Memory donation form. If you need any support or further information, please contact us on 01730 716051 or email inmemory@caninepartners.org.uk



A day in the life of a vo

Our volunteer puppy parents play a vital role in the early socialisation and training of a canine partner, preparing them with the skills and mind-set they need to become an amazing assistance dog, Puppy parents look after our little pups from around eight weeks old until they're ready to head off to advanced training at between 12 to 14 months of age.



There's never a dull moment in Sammy's day, nor that of his 'puppy parents' as he is introduced to new experiences and situations.

Sandra, a mum-of-two living in Warwickshire, is a volunteer puppy parent for Canine Partners with her husband, John. They are currently looking after their sixth puppy-intraining, Sammy.





"Our day with
Sammy starts at 7am
with toileting and
breakfast time - we
don't need an alarm
clock in our house as
Sammy wakes us up!
He's learning to be
more patient as he
gets older."

lunteer puppy parent

Planning the day

"Sammy goes along with anything we have planned for the day. Sometimes a shopping trip or a meal out, or some Sammvtime where we take a trip to his favourite park for training and

some off-lead play. Sometimes we don't go out at all and have a quiet day of training,

play and cuddles at home."

Learning new things

"All of our puppies have loved to please. They see the tasks as a game

and it's so fun and rewarding for them, without realising that they will one day help someone. All the learning is positive and reward-based; they get to play with their favourite toy or eat a tasty treat."





Time for a snooze!

"They still get to play and be normal puppies, and of course have a nap or three throughout the day as well! Sammy is usually ready to settle down for bed at 10pm. sometimes earlier if he's had a busy day."

Could you share vour love and home with a puppy-in-training?

"We both love being a part of their training and we miss each puppy when they leave us, but we know they are going on to do so much good and we both feel very proud to have been part of their training. We would encourage others to sign up to be a puppy parent as it's without a doubt the most rewarding thing because you know vou will transform someone's life and we get a puppy to love and care for."

Sandra and John



Alternatively, call the Puppy Office on 01730 716017 or email puppyoffice@caninepartners.org.uk

Fundraiser story

Meet one of our fabulous fundraisers

Sarah Cleaver

After discovering Canine
Partners at a dog show in
London, fundraiser Sarah Cleaver
immediately started to think of
ways to support the charity.

Why...

I'm supporting Canine Partners

"My first encounter with the charity was somewhat serendipitous, as I stumbled across a dog show where I saw a Canine Partners demonstration. What really caught mv attention was the independence a canine partner can give. It was particularly poignant for me, as my father had spent many years in a wheelchair with Multiple Sclerosis and became increasingly frustrated that he'd lost his independence. If he had had the chance of having a canine partner, life would have been very different for him but unfortunately the charity did not exist then."



Where...

I'm supporting Canine Partners

"After finding out about the charity, I immediately started to think of ways that I could support, raise funds and awareness. I decided to focus my attention in the North West, where I spend some of my time, and where Canine Partners has a small but growing presence."

How...

I'm supporting Canine Partners

"I am always telling people about the charity and I have organised various fundraising events. I raised over £3,000 at a Summer Open Garden, which included a plant sale, raffle and of course, tea and cakes. I have also held a ticketed Wine Tasting event, where a beneficiary of the charity, Natalie Preston, spoke about how her canine partner Faye has transformed her life. I have organised a demonstration at a primary school in Lancaster, where the pupils watched in amazement as Goldendoodle Rio, the demonstration dog, performed tasks in front of them."

Sponsoring Lancaster, the puppy-in-training!

"Last year, I organised a carol service for Canine Partners at Lancaster Priory and set a target to raise £20.000, as this is the cost of funding a partnership from puppy to retirement. I focused on sponsorship and ticket sales, as well as organizing smaller fundraising events and activities such as bucket collections and an awareness day in a supermarket. As we hit the target we were able to name a puppy 'Lancaster' to give recognition to the local support and I am so grateful to everyone who made puppy Lancaster a reality."

Join me...∢

in supporting Canine Partners

"I would like to encourage anyone who has a fundraising idea to speak to Canine Partners. Even if you've never fundraised before, just go for it! You can have so much fun doing it whilst helping the charity to transform even more lives."

Join fundraisers like Sarah and help to make a difference to someone living with physical disabilities in the UK. Please visit caninepartners.org.uk/fundraising for more information.

of Independence

With your support we can put more puppies like Lancaster through our training programme so that one day they can transform a life.

Sarah's sponsored puppy-in-training,

Lancaster.

"It is wonderful to be able to see where the money has gone and to know that Lancaster is doing very well in his puppy training. The icing on the cake will be when he is partnered!"

Sarah Cleaver, Fundraiser.

It costs over £20,000 to fund a partnership from puppyhood to retirement at around 12 years of age.
Please visit caninepartners.org.uk/donate or call **08456 580 480**.



Get in the festive spirit at the Canine Partners Carol Services. Each event includes an evening of carols and festive songs. as well as mulled wine and mince pies to really get you in the Christmas mood!

East Midlands Carol Service

6 December 2019

St Peter's Church

caninepartners.org.uk/

eastmidlandscarols

Book tickets at

Edensor



Bedfordshire Carol Service

St Paul's Church Redford

Book tickets at caninepartners.org.uk/ bedfordcarols



12 December 2019

Arundel Carol Service Arundel Cathedral Arundel, West Sussex **Book tickets at**

arundelcarols





Ways to support Canine Partners this Christmas





Your donation will be doubled between midday 3rd and midday 10th December!

Find out more: caninepartners.org.uk/thebiggive

The Big Give Christmas Challenge is back!

Do you like to donate online? The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2019 is for you!

For one week only, your donation to Canine Partners will be DOUBLED in value! From 3rd - 10th December 2019, simply log on to caninepartners.org.uk/thebiggive and follow the link to donate, and The Big Give will match the value of your donation.



This year, we are hoping to raise a fantastic £90,000 through The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2019 - funds that will go directly to helping us train more amazing dogs to transform more lives.



Keep an eye on our website and social channels as once the challenge is live, we will share the link to donate.

** Find us on Social Media

f facebook.com/caninepartners Twitter @canine_partners Instagram © @caninepartnersuk LinkedIn in Canine Partners

Christmas Shop

Our Christmas Selection 2019 includes specially chosen cards and gifts to help make your festive shopping easier, including our exclusive 30th Anniversary calendar for 2020. There are stocking filler ideas for your family and friends too, including the fourlegged variety!

Visit caninepartners.org.uk/shop to see the full product range and order online. Hurry, while stocks last!

Please make sure to place your order by Friday 13 December 2019 for delivery before Christmas.



Partnership story

David Tessie

Three weeks after his 18th birthday in 2007, David Follett was hit by a car whilst crossing the road to retrieve a football. It left him paralysed from the chest down.



David was partnered with Tessie, a Labrador X Golden Retriever, in November 2014. Here, he shares how having a canine partner has allowed him to excel in a sport he loves.

"When I came out of hospital after my accident the first few years were all about finding my feet. I went back to college to finish my A Levels before going to university, returned to driving and took up wheelchair badminton.

"It was through badminton that I met my wife but I also met a friend who had an assistance dog, inspiring me to contact Canine Partners. When I first met Tessie, I instantly fell in love with her.

"Tessie loves working and trying her hand at any task I give her. She closes doors that I find difficult because I would have to manoeuvre my wheelchair. She is great at picking up dropped items and retrieving the TV control and phones for me, and she will go and find my carer and let him know that I need him.

"I am now doing the best I've ever done in wheelchair badminton – I've been to three international tournaments this year in Dubai, Dublin and just recently the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland. I've managed to get to one quarter final in Dublin and the last 16 in the World Championships, which I'm extremely pleased with as I was one of only four European players. It's my ambition one day to represent my country at the Paralympics.



"Tessie comes with me to training and is good as gold sat by the side of my court. She has got used to shuttles, sports hall noises and children, and sits there beautifully until called upon. She even brings my racket to me and occasionally helps pick up the shuttles, although not the new ones! My current world ranking in badminton singles is 18.

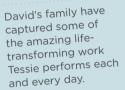
"I now have two children - Imogen, who has recently turned two, and Maizy, who is three weeks old. Both of them were conceived through IVF, which was an amazing miracle. Tessie loves playing with Imogen and thinks it is fun to tug her socks off.

"Having Tessie takes the worry away from my parents and my wife. It is also great for my confidence and fitness as it gives me a reason to go out. Tessie loves doing this and it means I go out and interact with people.

"Now I have Tessie, I can't imagine life without her. She has completed my family."

David's personal message









"I'm delighted to help launch **Canine Partners' Transforming Lives** Appeal this winter.

"Canine Partners' fantastic training and aftercare programmes, and the care taken to make the right match between human and canine partner, means that I am fortunate enough to know, first hand, just what these amazing assistance dogs can do.

"Tessie gives me practical help every day - picking up the many things that I drop or fetching help. But the impact of having Tessie is much more than that - she gives me confidence and independence and helps me stay positive. I can truly say that, thanks to Canine Partners. Tessie has transformed my life.

"It takes over two years to train an assistance dog like Tessie, and costs over £20,000 to fund a partnership. Demand is high and waiting lists are full and Canine Partners relies on the generosity of donors, volunteers, supporters and friends for donations to fund this amazing work they receive no government support. Please donate today and help transform more lives, like mine."



Transforming Lives Appeal

£13	£27	£65	Other	£		(please	e tick or enter your own amount)	
Title	Initial	Su	irname					
Address								
F						ostcode		
Email								
Pleas	e tick to c	onfirm we	can cont	act vou				
			Carr Corre	act you	by emai	(pleas	se see 'Keeping in touch' below)	
l encl (please do n	ose a che ot send cash	que/posta h through the	l order m	3		.,	, ,	
(please do n	ot send cash	que/posta	l order m	ade paya	able to (Canine	e Partners	
(please do n	ot send cash e tick if yo	que/posta through the	l order m	ade paya donatic	able to (Canine owled	e Partners	
(please do n	ot send cash e tick if yo	que/posta hthrough the ou do not	l order m post) want your	ade paya donatic	able to (Canine owled	e Partners ged	
Please de Please de	e tick if yo	que/posta hthrough the ou do not	l order manner post) want your Master	ade paya donatic	able to (Canine owled	e Partners ged	

giftaid it	Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate.
*/· / ·	

I want to Gift Aid my donation today, and any donations I make in the future or in the past 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please contact us to cancel this declaration or if your details or tax circumstances change. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code.

Keeping in touch. Canine Partners respect your personal information and your privacy and we will not sell or share your data with other organisations. We may use your contact details and information on how you support or engage with us to provide information we think you will find interesting. To find out more about how we manage your personal data, please read our Privacy Policy at caninepartners.org.uk/privacy. You can update how you hear from us, including telling us if you do not wish to receive occasional direct mail or calls from Canine Partners by visiting caninepartners.org.uk/keepintouch or by calling 01730 716 010.







Here are some lovely photos from our puppy parents...

If you've been inspired by our feature inside the magazine, find out more about becoming a puppy parent at caninepartners.org.uk/puppy-parents











caninepartners.org.uk