

Let's Go!



Canine
Partners

Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

Summer 2024

Inside

"I am thankful for the past 10 years with Kibble and am convinced that if I hadn't got him, I wouldn't be here today."

caninepartners.org.uk



WE BELIEVE PETS & PEOPLE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

At PURINA® we believe in the magical and unique connection between pets and humans and when people and pets bond, life becomes richer.

This belief is placed at the heart of everything we do and we're passionate about finding ways to make this bond stronger. Our commitments to pets include, helping advance nutrition through the products we make, championing the role of pets in society and working towards a waste free future.

We've been proud supporters of Canine Partners since 2000. Like them, we know just how transformational your relationship with your pet can be – and how much love and joy that can bring to your life.

Follow us on Twitter [@PurinaUK](#) Facebook [PURINA UK & Ireland](#) To learn more about us visit: <https://www.purina.co.uk/>

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Your Pet, Our Passion.™

Welcome to our Summer 2024 issue of Let's Go!



A few words from our CEO, Alex Lochrane

I am delighted to welcome you to the summer edition of Let's Go! for 2024. This year, we will celebrate a significant milestone - 34 years of Canine Partners. It is an incredible achievement, and I am humbled to be a part of this remarkable organisation as we continue to make a difference to the lives of disabled people.

Our dogs bring independence, companionship, and a new sense of purpose to their partners' lives. Like many charities, we are experiencing an increased demand for our services. We are extremely grateful for the support of our donors, volunteers, and partners.

Your help enables us to continue to grow and develop so that we can reach more people who can benefit from the support of our truly life-changing assistance dogs.

2023 saw significant change for Canine Partners, but we were fortunate to welcome talented new members across the team. This includes two new Directors joining the Senior Leadership Team and four new Trustees appointed to the board. Please join me in welcoming all our new members of staff to Canine Partners!

Learn more about our leadership and board on our website: careers.caninepartners.org.uk/meet-the-team



This issue of Let's Go! is packed with heartwarming stories and updates on our work. Read Shelley and retired canine partner Kibble's story

on page four. Join us on page nine, for 'Puppy Pilates,' and on page 12, go behind the scenes with our Aftercare Team for a week in the life of an Aftercare Instructor.

Thank you for being a part of our story, our community, and for your continued commitment to our cause. We hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

With all our very best wishes to you for a fantastic summer.

Alex Lochrane

This issue is kindly supported by our Platinum Business Club members Nestlé Purina Petcare and Pets Corner

You can follow us on [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [X](#) [LinkedIn](#) [TikTok](#)

Partnership story

Shelley and Kibble



Shelley was partnered with now retired black Labrador Kibble in January 2014. This is her story.

“I have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a condition that causes dislocations throughout my body. Some days, I’m able to move around, but other days, I’m confined to a wheelchair.

“Before being partnered with Kibble, I struggled with frequent dislocations and relied on my husband and children for everything. Discovering Canine Partners was life-changing for me.

“With Kibble by my side, I was more independent and confident. He did so much for me, from helping me get out of bed to doing my laundry and shopping. He picked up everything I dropped and was always there to comfort me when I was feeling down. Thanks to Kibble, I was never alone, and could go out and do things I

never thought I could do before. He massively improved the quality of my life.

“Even now that he has retired, Kibble is always there to keep me company. His great sense of humour never fails to cheer me up.

“I applied for a successor dog in February 2023, and prepared for Kibble’s retirement by leaving him at home more often, letting family members walk him, and bringing in his friend, Pebble, to help with some of his favourite tasks.

“While waiting for my canine partner successor, I’ve been feeling anxious about not having a dog by my side.”



“I don’t want to go back to relying on other people for help with personal tasks. I don’t like going out without Kibble, so I’ve been staying in more. Recently, I dropped my phone and tried to reach for it, resulting in a cracked rib. I felt embarrassed and in pain, and had to ask for help.

“ I feel safer and more comfortable with a canine partner in public, and people are more likely to engage with me. ”



“Kibble changed not only my life but also the lives of my entire family.”

“My children could go to school and after-school clubs without worrying about me, and my husband could go to work without constantly checking in on me. I’ve been feeling more anxious since Kibble retired, but I’m holding out for a successor dog that I know will be an absolute life saver for me.

“Having a canine partner has given me confidence and the ability to accomplish anything. They are not just life changers but life savers. I am thankful for the past 10 years with Kibble and am convinced that if I hadn’t got him, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Will you support Canine Partners’ summer appeal today?

Your donation could help shorten waiting times for those, like me, who are at risk of injury and loneliness without the security of an amazing canine partner.



Watch Shelley’s full story on our blog caninepartners.org.uk/shelleyandkibble

caninepartners.org.uk/summerappeal2024





Canine Partners Awareness Week

Go Purple For Paws!
24 - 30 June 2024

We had an amazing time in June celebrating our first annual Canine Partners Awareness Week. This event was an opportunity for us to raise awareness about our mission and how we transform the lives of disabled people with our amazing dogs.



During the week-long event, our community of staff and supporters were encouraged to 'Go Purple for Paws'. We invited people to celebrate in any way they could, including walking their dogs in purple, hosting purple picnics, and celebrating Canine Partners' 34th birthday with cake sales and tea parties. Supporters were also asked to help spread the word on social media by sharing posts throughout the week.

If you missed the first Canine Partners Awareness Week, don't

worry! There are many different ways you can support us. We rely on donations, so every pound you raise for us and every minute of your time you volunteer will help us continue transforming the lives of people with physical disabilities.

You can find out more by visiting caninepartners.org.uk/get-involved



Alex Lochrane, CEO, said:

“The success of the first Canine Partners Awareness Week is a true testament to the unwavering dedication and passion of our remarkable community. Witnessing so many individuals coming together to support our cause was truly inspiring and heartwarming. I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed.”



Canine Careers

While not all our dogs go on to become canine partner assistance dogs, they still play a crucial role in providing support and companionship.



Canine home assistance

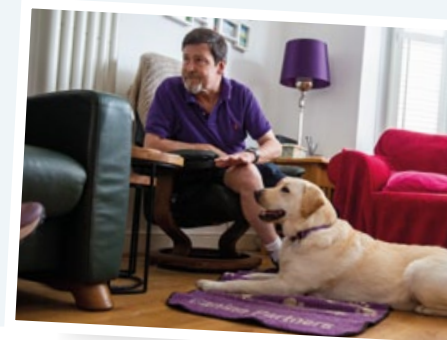
Our home assistance canines provide life-changing physical and emotional support within the home.

While they don't have public access rights or wear our distinctive purple jackets, home assistance canines are still highly trained. These dogs have mastered essential skills and meet our high standards for leash walking, recall, and overall behaviour. They thrive best in calm, home environments.

Once partnered with a disabled person, these dogs provide essential support at home, both physically and emotionally. They're an excellent choice for those who need assistance at home but not in public or at work.

Many who have been partnered with a home assistance canine report greatly improved quality of life.

.....
The programme is also beneficial for working canine partner assistance dogs who require a gradual transition into retirement.
.....



Canine companions

For those partners who need less physical or task based support, our dogs can support them as a canine companion. They offer invaluable companionship, encourage exercise, and provide all the wonderful benefits of pet ownership to households where a member has a physical disability.

Other careers

Some dogs join our in-house breeding programme and have the vital job of providing the next generation of life-changing canine partners.

We also place some dogs as amazing Dog Ambassadors, who educate people about Canine Partners' life-changing work and demonstrate the skills our dogs need to transform lives.



Canine companion with their handler

Working with other Assistance Dog Charities (ADUK)

We work closely with other ADUK charities to identify, train, and place a special type of assistance dog: a dual-purpose dog.

We partner with organisations such as **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** to provide dual-purpose assistance dogs like Rico (pictured). Rico has been trained to walk alongside mobility aids and perform both task and sound work in various environments.

What makes a dual-purpose dog special?

These incredible dogs are trained for two roles, requiring a high work ethic and the ability to excel in both.

The dual-purpose training process:

We work together with the other ADUK charity to identify a dog with the potential to become a dual-purpose canine. The dog then receives training from both

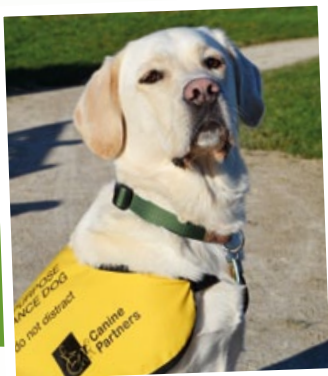
charities to ensure they master the necessary skills for both roles.

Applicants interested in a dual-purpose dog must meet eligibility criteria and be assessed by both Canine Partners and the partnering ADUK charity. If a suitable dog is identified, the applicant will attend a matching visit.

.....
After a successful match, the dog receives additional training at both charities before embarking on the Partnership Training Course with their new partner.

Throughout the dog's working life and retirement, both Canine Partners and the partnering ADUK charity will provide ongoing support.

By working together, we can make a greater impact on the lives of disabled people.



Rico's Advanced Trainer said:

"Training a dual-purpose assistance dog is a unique experience that requires patience, understanding, and collaboration. It's a wonderful opportunity to combine the strengths of both charities and produce highly skilled and adaptable assistance dogs. With the right training and support, these incredible dogs can transform people's lives, and that's what makes our work so fulfilling."

Puppy 'Pilates'

The importance of preventative care



At Canine Partners, we have been thrilled to see an increasing number of dogs coming through our training programme. However, we have also noticed that some of these dogs have been experiencing gait and soft tissue problems that require physiotherapy.

After some research, we discovered that due to the nature of our dogs' training and work requirements, as well as the breeds we use, they can be more susceptible to musculoskeletal conditions. We decided to address these issues head on.

We started a physiotherapy programme, or 'puppy pilates', tailored to each stage of a dog's life with us, from newborn puppy right through to retirement. Our goal is to prevent musculoskeletal issues and develop healthier, more physically robust dogs. We have successfully delivered this programme at both puppy and advanced training, and we are seeing a tremendous impact on our dogs.

We are delighted to share that thanks to this proactive approach, a couple of our dogs have made full recoveries from imbalances in their muscular structure and posture. Instead of being withdrawn from the training programme, they can now go out on partnership and, with a maintenance routine, should have no further complications.

Our proactive physio programme has been a game-changer for our dogs. It improves their health, reduces the likelihood of injuries, aches, stiffness, and lameness, and helps with their behaviour. By addressing potential musculoskeletal issues before they develop, we are ensuring that our dogs are healthy throughout their lives with us.



Let's talk

Itchy skin

Stiff or sore joints

Bad breath

Farts

Squishy poops

**A CHANGE OF DIET
CAN REALLY HELP!**

ASK ONE OF OUR EXPERTS

(We promise not to embarrass your dog)

13
YEARS
PROUDLY
SUPPORTING



**Canine
Partners**

Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

Canine College



Training your dog not to jump up

Dogs often jump up to get our attention, whether they're excited to see us or worried about something. Jumping up can become a habit if it's rewarded with attention, so it's important to teach your dog not to do it.

Many people inadvertently encourage jumping up when their dogs are young and cute, but this behaviour can become confusing and problematic as the dogs grow older. Don't worry if your dog jumps up – with the proper training, you can teach them to behave differently.

Here are some **tips** to help you stop your dog from jumping up

-  **Stay calm and quiet** if your dog jumps up and reward them when all four paws are back on the floor.
-  **Reward your dog** for keeping all four paws on the floor, especially in situations when they might jump up.
-  **When meeting people** outside, ask them to step back to give your dog space until they are calm. Reward all calm behaviours and try again.
-  **If your dog struggles with people** coming into your home, baby gates are a great way to help manage the situation and give your dog time to relax after the initial excitement. Reward all calm behaviours and then try introducing them to your guests.
-  **Make a list of situations** in which your dog might jump up and quickly interact with them before they do.
-  **Don't tell your dog off** for jumping up, as it could be self-rewarding for some dogs and distressing for others.
-  **Be consistent** with your training and teach your dog to sit when meeting people.
-  **Use high value treats** to reward your dog for not jumping up and keeping all paws on the ground.
-  **Set your dog up for success** by being prepared with plenty of treats when out for walks or when visitors come to your home and thinking ahead so you can pre-empt the behaviour.

Our experts
share their
best tips for
you to train
your dog



.....
Cedar, one of our assistance dogs,
with his feet firmly on the ground.

A week in the life of our Aftercare Team



Our dedicated Aftercare Team offers care, support, and guidance throughout the entire partnership, from the initial check-in visits at the start right through to the dog's well-deserved retirement!

Ellie

Meet Ellie, one of our amazing Aftercare Instructors.

"I joined the charity in December 2016 as an Advanced Trainer at the Southern Training Centre. After several years in that role, I became an Aftercare Instructor in the South in Spring 2023.

I love the daily variety, witnessing the unique partnerships between dogs and people, and working alongside wonderful colleagues. I also enjoy being part of the Dog Ambassador Team, where I do demonstrations for the charity with my dog, Daisie.

Seeing the final partnership and benefits our dogs bring is a privilege.

I cherish the support our dogs provide, including emotional, physical, and confidence-building, as well as serving as a bridge to communities."

Monday

To start the week, I checked emails and visited a new partnership. We practised the visitor routine and worked on loose lead walking and distractions at a supermarket.



Picture: Ellie working with a canine partner

Tuesday

I started the day with admin, including writing up a report from yesterday's aftercare visit. I had a virtual call with a partnership to discuss their dog's health and conducted a training session with two Dog Ambassadors, teaching volunteers loose lead walking, dealing with distractions, recall, go-to-bed games, toy play, and car loading.

Wednesday

I discussed access rights with a partner and wrote an email to a food and drink establishment to address an issue where the partnership was refused access. I also held a meeting to plan the next educational webinar for our community of volunteers and partners. I had a phone call with a Fosterer volunteer about a dog being fostered after their partner passed away, supporting those involved in creating these special partnerships.

Thursday

I met with colleagues over breakfast to see each other face-to-face now we work from home. Then I visited the new partnership for their second visit of the week. We concentrated on tasks in the home, including practising the visitor routine and consensual handling. We also worked on splint and shoe retrieval, and taught a 'get help' command. Finally, we discussed the bronze award - one of the 'milestone' certificates we give our partnerships.



Aftercare includes checking the dogs' skills and task work

Friday

I visited a partnership for a six-month progress report. We conducted a health check and went for a walk to the park, where we practised recalls and basic obedience. The dog enjoyed playing with her frisbee and socialising with other dogs. Finally, we reviewed the dog's 'emergency down' and 'down wait' skills, and discussed how to progress these for their gold award. Afterwards, I returned home to complete aftercare reports and more admin. Another week complete!



You could help fund the next generation of life-changing partnerships

Sponsor Daley or Stodel

and follow their journey through the first 12 months of their training to become fully trained assistance dogs.

Daley is an athletic boy who loves to swim.

Stodel is an energetic girl who loves the outdoors.



Daley



Stodel

From just **£5 a month** or £60 a year you will receive a special welcome pack, including a soft toy, certificate, regular Pupdates following your pup's progress and much more!

If you would like to sponsor a puppy, for yourself or as a gift, visit myamazingpuppy.org.uk or get in touch with the team on **01530 225930**.



Amazing Corporates

The support we receive from our corporate partners is essential in helping us to train and provide assistance dogs for adults with physical disabilities.



Caremark Ltd

Canine Partners was delighted to visit Platinum Level Business Club Partner, Caremark Ltd, to celebrate the charity's partnership and the incredible **£10,000** donation we received in 2023.

This special relationship has involved Caremark employees undertaking fundraising and volunteering activities, as well as assisting us with pro bono support and sponsoring one of our assistance dogs in training, Fudge.

Pets Corner

We were delighted that Pets Corner's in-store and online 2023 Christmas campaign raised an incredible **£18,985** through 30p donations from their customers. Pets Corner, a Platinum Level Corporate Partner of our Business Club, matched these donations, meaning that a grand total of £37,970 was raised and donated to Canine Partners.

Purina

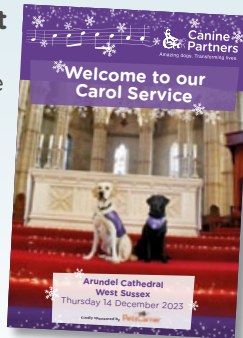
Our amazing Platinum Level Corporate Partner Purina raised an incredible **£128,710** for Canine Partners in 2023 with their Purina Changing Lives Campaign, which highlighted the power of the pet-human bond to positively impact people's mental and physical health.

A percentage from the sale of dog food on Amazon was donated to Canine Partners, and the inspiring fundraising efforts of Purina employees, including a dog show, cuddle club, and walking the South Downs National Park, all contributed to raising this incredible sum of money.

Corporate Support for Carol Services

Pets Corner were the headline sponsor of the 2023 Arundel Carol Service, which raised over **£9,000!**

Thank you to both **Greggs and Birds Bakery** for providing the mince pies for our Loughborough and Arundel Carol Services.



Join our Business Club and enjoy the exclusive benefits of Platinum, Gold or Silver membership. To find out more, please visit caninepartners.org.uk/business-club

Inside Canine Partners...

Rebecca Middleton
Community Fundraiser



Our Community Fundraisers support local communities across the UK to raise income and awareness for Canine Partners. They work with local businesses, schools and other organisations to take on fun challenges, organise fundraising activities such as coffee mornings, and inspire new and creative ways to raise vital funds.

Rebecca joined Canine Partners as our North Community Fundraiser in April 2023.

"I eagerly jumped at the opportunity to join Canine Partners after experiencing first-hand the charity's transformative impact on my family by providing exceptional assistance dogs for my dad. Witnessing Troy and Wallis transform our

lives, I was compelled to contribute to the team's fundraising efforts. I, along with all our amazing staff and volunteers, want to ensure that more individuals can benefit from the companionship and assistance of our incredible dogs."



Here's a **FREE** and really easy way to help us create more life-transforming partnerships!

My Giving Circle is giving away **up to £50,000** worth of grants but we have to be in the top 30 to be in with a chance!

Voting is **FREE** and you can vote for us once a week! Why not add a reminder to your calendar? Every vote increases our chances of winning a share of £50,000!



To vote, please visit mygivingcircle.org/canine-partners or scan the QR code



Write your will for FREE

We are delighted to offer Let's Go! Magazine readers the opportunity to write your will for FREE.

We've partnered with Farewill, a professional online and telephone will writing service overseen by trained solicitors, to help you easily write your will at no cost. Whether you choose the online or phone option, writing your will with Farewill takes just 15-20 minutes. It's a quick and convenient way to ensure your wishes are met.

If you decide to include Canine Partners in your will, you'll help fund future generations of life-changing assistance dogs.



Simply scan the QR code or type in the following link to your web browser: farewill.com/cp-dm

Alternatively, you can speak to one of Farewill's friendly, professional solicitors on 020 8016 3905. When calling, please quote 'Canine Partners'.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your will, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@caninepartners.org.uk We're happy to assist you.



Do you love dogs as much as we do? Find out more about volunteering with us by visiting caninepartners.org.uk/volunteer

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Keep in touch! Keep us up to date with your details so you don't miss out on any future editions. You can update how you hear from us at any time by calling **03456 580480** or visiting caninepartners.org.uk/keepintouch