

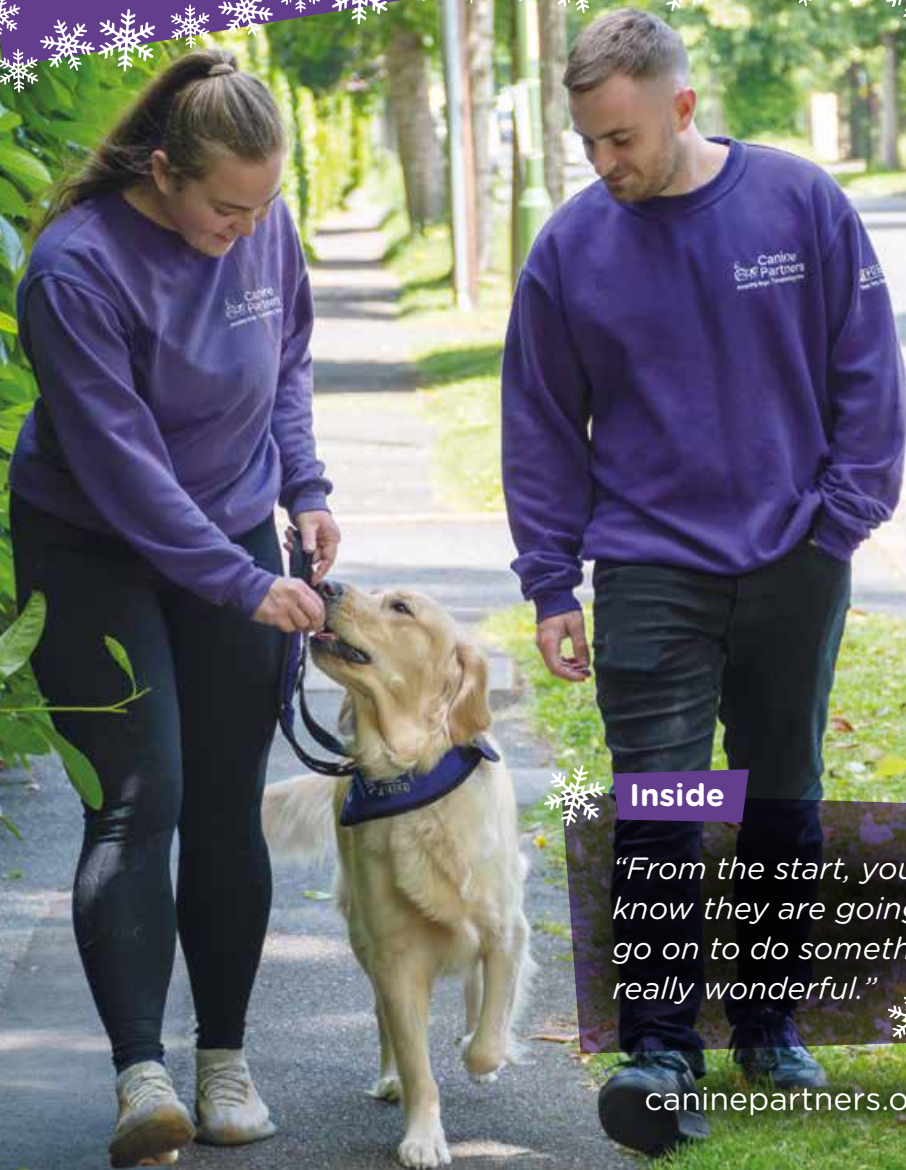
Let's Go!



Canine Partners

Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

Winter 2024



Inside

"From the start, you know they are going to go on to do something really wonderful."

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.

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To learn more about us visit:
<https://www.purina.co.uk/>

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Your Pet, Our Passion.™

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



A few words from our CEO, Alex Lochrane

As we approach the end of 2024, I'm delighted to welcome you to the winter edition of Let's Go!, filled with heartwarming stories and inspirational people.

This year has been extraordinary for Canine Partners, marked by significant milestones and exciting developments. One highlight is the launch of our canine companion and canine home assistance services, addressing the changing needs of our community. These programmes support individuals who may not need a traditional assistance dog but greatly benefit from canine companionship.

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These amazing dogs provide emotional support and help with specific tasks at home, making a profound and lasting difference. It's a privilege to see them thrive.
.....

In addition to these new initiatives, we are on the brink of an extraordinary achievement – our 1000th partnership.

Reaching this milestone is a testament to the commitment of our staff, volunteers, and supporters over the years.

Next year, we will celebrate 35 years since the founding of Canine Partners. Reflecting on over three decades of creating life-changing partnerships, I'm filled with gratitude for everyone who has played a role in this journey.

Preparations are in full swing to commemorate this special year, and we can't wait to share them with you. Make sure to keep an eye out for how you can help us celebrate!

Finally, I'd like to thank you for being a part of the Canine Partners community. Your ongoing support is crucial in enabling us to achieve more, reach new communities and expand our services to transform the lives of people living with physical disabilities.

Wishing everyone a happy festive season,

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



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

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

Partnership story

Jackie

and canine partner

Kingston

Jackie was partnered with black Labrador, Kingston, in 2015. This is her story.

“After leaving college, I served as a police officer in the Metropolitan Police for nearly six years until a traumatic brain injury at work left me with epilepsy. In 2007, I was diagnosed with Cauda Equina Syndrome and Spinal Stenosis, leading to severe spinal cord compression. Despite two emergency surgeries, I was left with severe lower body weakness, requiring the use of a wheelchair.

“My life changed overnight, plunging me into deep depression. I was in constant pain and dependent on others for daily tasks, making life unbearable. Despite appearing cheerful, I was in a very dark place.

“I first learned about Canine Partners in 2010 but didn't apply as I didn't think I was disabled enough. Later, I saw a demonstration of these amazing dogs, convincing me that a canine partner could improve my life.

“In 2015, Canine Partners called to tell me they had found a match – a black Labrador named Kingston.

“We bonded instantly, and after our two-week training course, Kingston became my life-changing companion. I can't thank Canine Partners enough for bringing him into my life.”



“With Kingston, my confidence soared. I travelled independently, volunteered with a local disability organisation, and participated in NHS projects.**”**

“Kingston helped me with daily tasks like retrieving dropped items, assisting with dressing, and even alerting me to impending epileptic seizures and diabetic emergencies, which was not taught by Canine Partners. He saved my life multiple times, including summoning help when I fell. Kingston's devotion earned him a special PDSA award for heroism.

“Kingston's presence not only transformed my life but gave me a new one filled with hope, love, and adventure.”

After being by Jackie's side for nearly nine years, Kingston sadly passed away in July 2024.

“He was my best friend, hero, and angel in a fur coat. There are not enough thank yous in the world that I can give Kingston.”

In September 2024, Kingston was awarded the 'Animal Award' at the BBC London Make a Difference Awards.

“Winning the award is better than winning the National Lottery. Kingston made me visible in a society which made me invisible. The day he passed away, that invisibility came back.

“He put joy in my heart and gave me the biggest gift of all – the gift of independence. I still go out and have his lead on my chair. He was one in a million, I miss him.”

Will you honour the life of a special dog like Kingston?



To read more about Jackie and Kingston's story or donate to our winter appeal, scan the QR code or visit caninepartners.org.uk/blog/jackies-story



Donate to Canine Partners in memory of a furry friend who made a lasting impact on your life. Scan the QR code or visit caninepartners.org.uk/giving-in-memory



Canine College

Supporting your dog through fireworks

With Bonfire Night, Diwali, and New Year's Eve approaching, fireworks can be stressful for many dogs.

Here are some **tips** for supporting your dog during this time

Recognising signs of stress

Look out for signs of fear or anxiety in your dog during fireworks:

- trembling or shaking
- restlessness and pacing
- destructive behaviour
- hiding
- panting or lip smacking
- seeking attention
- whining or barking
- attempts to escape
- loss of house training
- reluctance to go outside
- vomiting or diarrhoea

Getting your dog used to the noise

Help your dog get used to firework sounds in advance by playing simulated firework sounds at a low volume. Reward calm behaviour while gradually increasing the volume.

Preparing your dog for firework nights

Ensure your dog gets a good walk beforehand. We recommend feeding your dog earlier than usual to allow them to relieve themselves before the fireworks start.

Prepare a quiet, dark space where your dog can seek comfort, and have essential supplies ready so you can stay home with your dog. Keeping your curtains closed and playing music or having the TV on can help reduce noise and visual stress.

After the fireworks

Allow your dog to leave their safe spot when they feel ready and avoid making a big deal about the fireworks ending. If your dog is reluctant to go outside afterwards, use treats and positive reinforcement to encourage them and rebuild positive associations.

Unexpected fireworks might occur before and after the main fireworks nights, so consider keeping your dog on a lead on walks during this period. Make sure your dog is wearing a collar with an ID tag.

If your dog has a severe reaction to fireworks, you should seek advice from your Canine Partners representative or vet.



Seasonal cards to get your tail wagging!

It's that time of year to treat your loved ones to some paw-some seasonal cards.

To order, please scan the QR code below, go online to caninepartners.org.uk/cardshop, or call 01227 811 673*.

1: Dogs and cats gazing at Santa 2: Canine partnership at Christmas
3: Five wise dogs 4: Happy Hanukkah 5: Happy Diwali

More card designs, gift wrap, advent calendars and other items available online

Scan me

Please note: Canine Partners use an external fulfilment provider to process Christmas card orders. Please do not attempt to order cards via our National Training Centre in Loughborough.
*Phone lines are open weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm (4pm on Friday).

Vital volunteers



Meet Puppy Parent volunteer Charleigh

At 22, university student Charleigh has just begun her third adventure as a Puppy Parent volunteer to a gorgeous chocolate Labrador.

In 2021, Charleigh welcomed her first puppy into her home, an eight-week-old black Labrador. This year, she completed her nurturing duties for a Labrador X Golden Retriever who went on to be partnered in August.

As she embraces her next puppy trainee, Charleigh hopes her story will inspire other students to consider taking on this unique and fulfilling role.

For Charleigh, being a Puppy Parent volunteer is more than just a volunteer opportunity – it's an experience that has significantly enriched her university life in unexpected ways.

"Even though I'm ultimately helping someone else, there's no underestimating how the dogs have helped me in return."

"I feel much more confident when I have the puppy with me. People stop and talk to me, and I feel at ease. I've even gone out on a date with a puppy by my side, which helped ease my nerves tremendously!"

Charleigh has always adored dogs, but she couldn't commit to owning a dog full-time as a university student. Becoming a Puppy Parent volunteer was the perfect solution. Each week with a puppy involves teaching basic commands, socialising in different environments, and ensuring the puppy is exposed to various sights, sounds, and situations.

"A lot of people ask how I can give up a puppy after raising it for a year, but from the start, you know they are not yours, and they are going to go on to do something really wonderful."

Charleigh and her partner, John, pictured left and right, loving their invaluable role as Puppy Parent volunteers.





"It's not easy to say goodbye, but it's worth it when you see how they can transform someone's life."

As she prepares to welcome her third puppy, Charleigh is excited to continue this unique journey, knowing that each week brings new challenges, learning experiences, and plenty of puppy love.



Love dogs? Volunteer for us

Help us to raise, train and care for our puppies and dogs with expert support and guidance from our team.

-  Look after a canine partner mum
-  Raise a future assistance dog
-  Foster puppies or dogs short or long-term
-  Raise awareness as a Dog Ambassador

Not sure what role suits your lifestyle or location? Please get in touch!

Please visit caninepartners.org.uk/volunteerforus

We have lots of other ways to volunteer within your local community too.



SCAN ME



Tips and Treats!

Doggy delights

Keeping your dog entertained indoors

Having fun with food enrichment toys

You might be spending more time indoors during the winter months, so it's important to ensure your dog has plenty to do. Food enrichment toys can be a fantastic way to give your dog a mental and physical challenge while also providing them with a tasty treat.

They provide a huge amount of enrichment for your dog and can be used to encourage settling behaviour or as an alternative way to feed your dog their normal food (great for fast feeders!).

Top tip: Freeze treats

Soak your dog's biscuits in warm water. Once the water has been absorbed, mash it together, then fill the toy and freeze.

Your dog can enjoy these straight from the freezer

Tip Add fruit or vegetables for variety

Recipe ideas

Our Canine Partners experts have provided some great recipes for a special treat that your four-legged friend will love. Mix the following ingredients, then fill the toy and freeze.

Breakfast

Mix banana, berries, yogurt, and oats.

Under the sea

Mix cooked salmon, white fish, sweet potato, and kale.

Banana cheesecake

Layer crushed dog biscuits, squeezey cheese, and mashed banana.

Pumpkin pie

Mix cooked pumpkin, carrot, peas, and dried meat.

These recipes are suitable for a fit and healthy dog. However, they may not be suitable for your dog due to health concerns or age. If you're unsure about any ingredient, please check with your Canine Partners representative or vet before giving it to your dog.



Find more tips and treats on our blog
caninepartners.org.uk/blog

Inside Canine Partners...

Introducing our dedicated Housekeeping Team

Our Housekeeping Team - Sophie, Julie and Helen - ensure our partners, applicants, carers, and guests are welcomed, well-fed, and comfortable at our National Training Centre.



Sophie (pictured) brings enthusiasm and meticulous attention to detail. Julie provides vital overnight support in our accommodation. Helen, the newest member, has quickly become an integral part of the team.

This trio takes pride in keeping our six en-suite rooms and two bungalows

clean and comfortable, ensuring the accommodation is spotless and welcoming for everyone at our National Training Centre.

Amazing Corporates

Canine Partners
BUSINESS CLUB

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

Football Fever

The CPR Cup, a five-a-side football tournament for the property sector, raised a record **£23,691 for Canine Partners in 2024.**

Sixteen teams competed, with Foxtons emerging as the champions for a second time. The success of this tournament is a testament to the dedication of **Barry Collins, Founder and CEO of Collins Property Recruitment**, and his outstanding team. We're grateful to headline sponsor CC Land, Forsters LLP for sponsoring the



BBQ, and event partners LonRes and PrimeResi Journal for their generous prizes and incredible support.

Partnership story

René

and canine partner

Paz

René was partnered with a black Labrador X Golden Retriever called Paz in 2020. This is her story.

“I have a type of Scleroderma called Systemic Sclerosis. The condition attacks my immune system and all the connective tissue in my body, both internally and externally. It has impacted every aspect of my life since I was diagnosed at the age of 19.

“Living with this condition has left me with 2% mobility in my hands and 15% mobility throughout my entire body. I often experience discomfort and limited hand mobility, especially in cold weather. Paz’s presence has been invaluable in helping me with these challenges, allowing me to maintain a sense of independence.

“I have been incredibly fortunate to have Paz by my side for the last four years. He’s been a massive help in easing my mobility challenges. As well as being a great companion, Paz helps me with daily tasks like opening and closing doors, doing laundry, and picking up things I drop.



“Our bond is undeniable. Paz has made such a significant impact on my life, and I’m incredibly grateful for his companionship and support. He’s brought so much joy and independence back into my world, and I can’t imagine life without him.

“Last year, I retired after 35 years as a mental health professional. I now actively participate in events to raise awareness for Canine Partners, where I can share my story and advocate for the incredible work of this charity. I’m so thankful to Canine Partners for partnering us and giving me the most incredible canine partner.”

It was a privilege for Paz and me to go to Westminster to raise awareness and campaign for better access for people who rely on assistance dogs. The MPs and Minister Mims Davies showed genuine interest and were surprised by all the amazing things Paz does for me.



“With Paz by my side, I love meeting new people, doing new things and challenging myself. I enjoy public speaking, especially when I get to show off my handsome boy, Paz and all the incredible things he does for me.”



Earlier this year, Canine Partners joined other Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) and Assistance Dogs International (ADI) charities at a Westminster event to demonstrate the life-changing impact of assistance dogs across the UK. René, attended the event alongside Paz.

“Sharing my experiences with access refusals was eye-opening for many MPs, who said they found it enlightening.”

Canine Partners is a member of ADUK, a voluntary coalition of accredited assistance dog charities that seeks to advance the education of the public and service providers about assistance dogs and the rights of people who rely on them.

We collaborate closely with fellow ADUK member organisations to share knowledge, expertise, and skills to achieve best practices and provide the highest level of care for the people we support and the amazing dogs they’re partnered with.



To find out more about René and Paz’s story visit caninepartners.org.uk/blog/meet-rené-and-paz



Will you take on a fundraising challenge?

We're inspired by the incredible efforts of our supporters, like Belinda Day and Peter Smorthit, who have taken on remarkable fundraising challenges to help us continue our life-changing work.

In August, 84-year-old Belinda embarked on a daring wing walk in memory of her late husband, David, and his beloved canine partner, Crunchie. She wanted to give back to the charity that brought her husband joy and independence, raising over £6,000.

In June, Peter completed an extraordinary 967-mile journey, pushing his everyday wheelchair from Lands' End to John O' Groats. He set a world record and raised nearly £10,000.



Help us create more life-changing partnerships by visiting caninepartners.org.uk/fundraising

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2024



For one week in December only, your donation to Canine Partners via the Big Give website* will be DOUBLED**

This year, we need your support more than ever as we aim to raise **£120,000** to breed, train, and partner more of our life-changing assistance dogs.

To donate to our Big Give Christmas Challenge, scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/CP-Big-Give between **3 and 10 December**.



If you experience difficulties, please contact our friendly fundraising team on **03456 580480** or email supporterservices@caninepartners.org.uk

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates



*Donations will only be doubled if made via the Big Give website. Cheques or donations via other channels will not count.
**Please note that donations will only be doubled while matched funding is available. To avoid disappointment, donate earlier in the week of the campaign. Once matched funding is exhausted, your donation will still be greatly appreciated but will not be doubled.

Carol Services

We're delighted to be hosting three Carol Services over the festive period. Sing along to your favourite carols and enjoy a reading from some familiar faces.



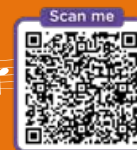
London

Thursday 5 December
7.00pm
(Doors open 6.30pm)
St Mary The Boltons
London, SW10 9TB

Tickets: Adult £40, Child £20



Special guest
Award winning actress,
Dame Joanna Lumley DBE



Loughborough

Sunday 8 December
3.00pm
(Doors open 2.45pm)
All Saints Church
Loughborough, LE11 1EE

Tickets: Adult £15, Child £7



Special guest
Bestselling novelist,
Philippa Gregory



Arundel

Thursday 12 December
6.30pm
(Doors open 5.45pm)
Arundel Cathedral
London Road, BN18 9AY

Tickets: Adult £15, Child £7



Special guest
Paralympian and World
Champion **Hannah Stodel**



Don't miss out! Scan the QR codes or email fundraising@caninepartners.org.uk to reserve your tickets.

my
amazing
puppy

The perfect present this festive season



Figgy



Pudding



Sponsor **both** Figgy and Pudding for £10 a month, or £120 a year and receive a My Amazing Puppy water bottle too!

From just £5 a month, or £60 a year, you or your chosen recipient will receive regular 'Pupdates', alongside a special welcome pack, including a soft toy and certificate.

Sponsor Figgy, Pudding or both... and follow their journey through the first 12 months of training to become a fully trained assistance dog.

Get in touch on **01530 225930** or visit **myamazingpuppy.org.uk** to take out your My Amazing Puppy sponsorship today.



Order by
18 December
for Christmas
delivery

 **Canine Partners**
Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

In partnership with
 **Farewill**



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.

Writing your Will with Farewill takes just 15-20 minutes, making it 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.



Visit **farewill.com/cp-dm** or speak to one of Farewill's friendly, professional solicitors on **020 8016 3905**. When calling, please quote 'Canine Partners'.



Please don't hesitate to contact us at **info@caninepartners.org.uk** if you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will.