



Canine Partners

Transforming lives since 1990.

Memory Book

**Moments, memories,
and milestones from 35
years of changing lives.**

Welcome to our memory book

This year marks two extraordinary milestones for Canine Partners: 35 years of transforming lives and our 1,000th life-changing partnership. What a journey it's been!

I feel incredibly proud and privileged to lead this charity at such a meaningful moment in its history. From our humble beginnings to becoming a pioneering force in assistance dog partnerships, it's the unwavering support from people like you - our staff, volunteers, fundraisers and friends - that has made it all possible.

This memory book is a celebration of everything we've achieved together. Inside, you'll find stories, snapshots and moments that reflect the heart and soul of Canine Partners - past and present.

Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to the next 35 years of independence, confidence, and companionship - powered by paws and people.

With heartfelt thanks,
Lucy Eldred, CEO



Our beginnings...



In 1990, two visionary women, Anne Conway and Dr Elizabeth Ormerod, founded Canine Partners with a powerful idea: that specially trained dogs could transform the lives of people with physical disabilities.

Anne was first inspired in 1983, after witnessing assistance dogs in action at a conference in Vienna. She later met Elizabeth in Boston, and together they began carefully planning how to bring this life-changing concept to the UK – ensuring the highest standards of care for both dogs and people.

With support from The SOHO Foundation in the Netherlands and the training expertise of Nina Bondarenko, Canine Partners began to take shape.

It wasn't easy, but Anne's motto said it all: "Perfect Planning Prevents Problems!" Their dedication laid the foundations for a charity that, 35 years later, has created over 1,000 life-changing partnerships and counting.



Anne Conway



Dr. Elizabeth Ormerod

"Even in our wildest dreams, we couldn't have imagined how many lives would be touched."

– Dr Elizabeth Ormerod



The 90's

Memories from our staff

Behind every successful partnership is a team of dedicated individuals working with passion, care and purpose. From trainers and kennel staff to fundraisers and office teams, each person plays a vital role in bringing our mission to life.

Here, some of our colleagues reflect on their proudest moments, favourite memories, and what it means to be part of the Canine Partners journey.





Favourite memories (there are so many!):

- Barns being demolished and watching NTC being built.
- Domicilliary course with Sam and Bugsy.
- Trips to Orkney.

- Chrissie

Building the main building and not having to share PC in bedroom and train in a Portacabin.

- Jenna



The start of an incredible future for Canine Partners!



One of my favourite memories is having the MIG team and members of the Ops team come together for the Merchant Taylor's event - this is when we do what we do best - showcasing Canine Partners!

- Ellie



Hearing Rene talk at the Merchant Taylors event and seeing her give a standing ovation to our donors. - Dan



Rene and canine partner Paz

- Speaking at Tails.com conference. Feeling their energy for Canine Partners and seeing Canine Partners for the first time.
 - Merchant Taylors event, particularly Rene and canine partner Paz.
- Beccs

Moving from our portacabin into our new kennels!

- Jo

Bradbury Kennels



- 25th year Crufts (Erin best demo dog ever!)
- Snake in the Gate House
- Working with Help For Heroes
- Turning dogs around from puppy to partnership - Jacob, Windsor, Chico, Quizzzy
- First Game Fair with demo dog Erin at Chatsworth.



- 25th year Canine Partner Crufts anniversary demo in main ring and dogs rocks and frocks event.
 - General Development of Canine Partners Midlands Centre (seeing the changes since Holton Leigh)
- Ann

Erin



2015 Crufts



- Attending a puppy class and watching our amazing trainers and dogs in action.
- Organising photoshoots for our campaigns, specifically photoshoots with our incredible dogs!

- Hannah



- Joining a puppy class and taking photos/videos.
- Meeting different teams at NTC, specifically the Assistance Dog Trainers and seeing their day to day.
- Photoshoots with Partnerships.
- CPR cup event.

- Lucy



Photographing and filming our puppies and partners over the years is an honour - and hearing their stories first hand.

- Elly



Me, Micheal and Freya trying to avoid the photographer, only to be coerced into having our photo taken and being asked to put our flexed arms up and look excited. The photo is so funny.
- Lizzie

Having a mini photoshoot with the office team, Lizzie and Micheal, at the Purple Picnic 2024! - Freya



My favourite memory at Canine Partners was being coerced into a photoshoot with Lizzie and Freya at Purple Picnic 2024 after trying to avoid it all day.
- Micheal



Purple Picnic 2023

Not every day you meet Storm Troopers!

- Lorraine



- My first OST course in January 2018 with two lovely partnerships - lots of laughs and a great 'welcome to Canine Partners'.
 - First Purple Picnic I ran in 2023.
- Kathy

- Meeting my first partnership when I started.
 - Opening of the kennels.
 - Building relationships with our donors.
 - A great team!
 - Explaining about the charity to people who don't know about us!
- Lucy



Being so welcomed by everyone at the organisation. Being amazed by the incredible work by the small but mighty teams!

- Millie

- Xmas 2018
 - Staff away day
 - First fundraising event at Haslemere Museum
- Sara



Favourite memories:

- Purdey matching visit.
- ADT retrieve workshop.
- ADT xmas evening games.

- Liv



Favourite memory:
Rehoming Vernon
and getting
birthday cake off
him each year! <3

- Katie

Attending a Canine Partners open day, to witness a partnership talk and the special bond of partner and dog.
- Carol

Attending my first open day and listening to Jane (and Frank's) beautiful story.
- Liz

Seeing in person how amazing our dogs are at my first open morning <3
- Sally

Seeing Jane and Frank's testimony at the open day.
- Nicky



Opening up NTC to over 40 partners and 60 volunteers on our first volunteer get-together on day 1!! Also "Ironman Dan".
- Lucy

Attending my first partnership day!
Emotion that never changes.
- Louise

First partnership ceremony.
- Belinda



Working with Help For Heroes at events with demos. Meeting several rugby heroes, and partners to come along the way.
- Claire

Placing my first puppy in training, Huggy :)
- Heather



Huggy

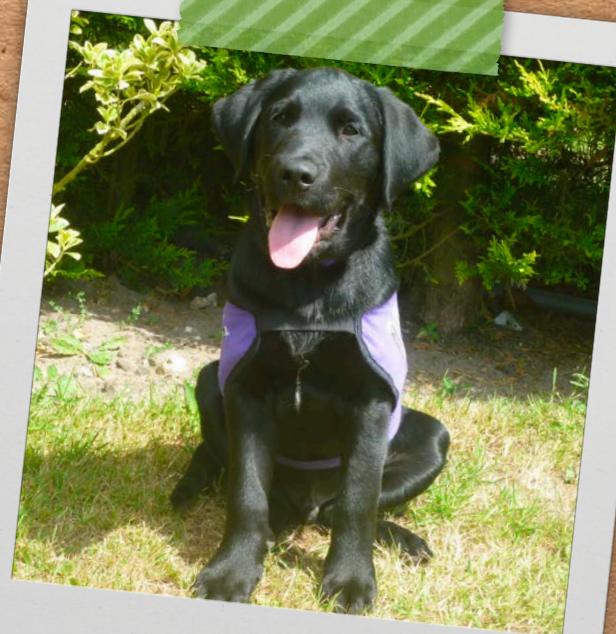


Shadowing a placement of one of my puppies

- Joanna



During my first few weeks I got to do some PR work with puppy Eddy (my nephews name). A year later I got to see him enter advanced training, then start his OST and be partnered <3
- Molly



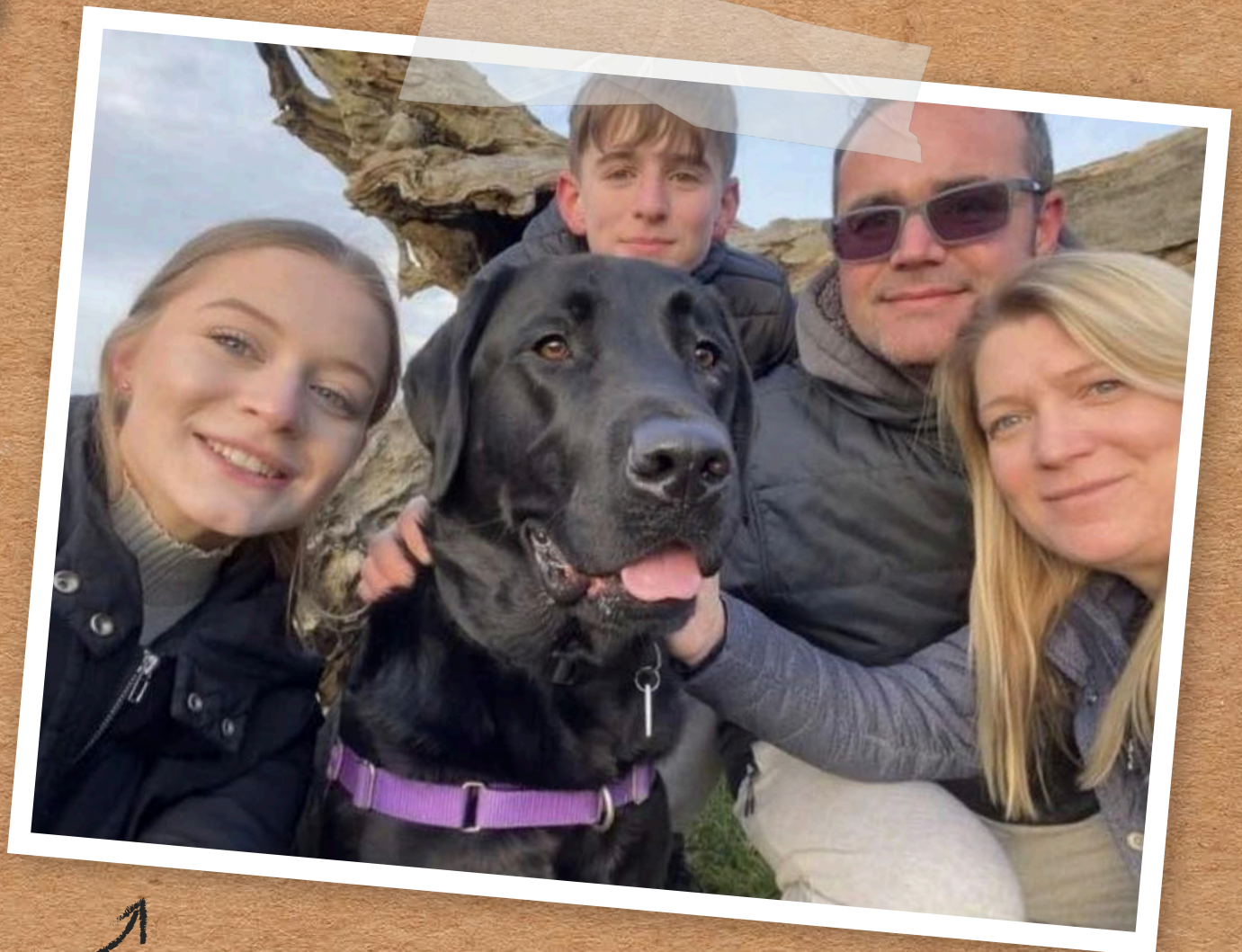
- First demo at Chatsworth with OJ.
 - 12 dogs in the shed.
 - 2019 staff away day.
 - Placing first ADT dog Columbus.
- Laura

Volunteer voices



This photo sums up the happy times we have with beautiful Mabel's puppies. Canine Partners brings such joy and love and we are grateful to be part a part of it.
- Mary, Breeding Department volunteer

We have so many special memories with all our foster dogs in assistance dog training. Top of the list is this amazing boy, Viking, who provided endless fun and laughter throughout Covid-19 lockdown. Photo taken on Christmas Day 2020.



- Lorraine, Assistance Dog Training volunteer



This is Banjo on the day he arrived. We had a wonderful time learning together as he was my first Canine Partners puppy, leading the way for my further five puppies Tetley, Jamie, Alena, Storm and Parsley. Each one has a special place in my heart.

←
- Jane, Puppy Training Volunteer



My first memory and photo is of 8 week old puppy Saffy, this was taken on her arrival at our house and she was making friends with her new buddy Monty. This was special because this was the start of my volunteering journey with Canine Partners as she was my first puppy and I'm still volunteering nearly 7 years later.

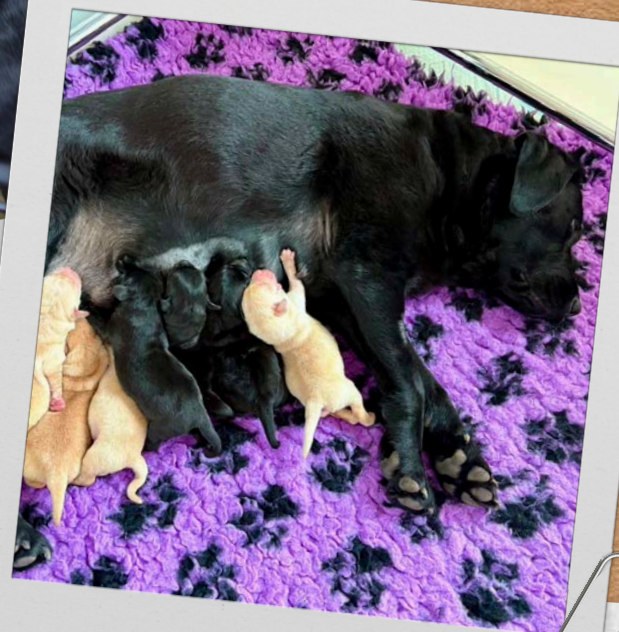
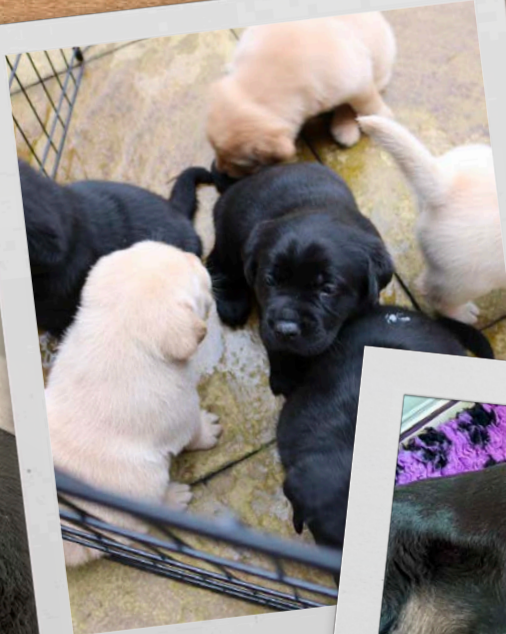


My second memory is also very special, as this was the day our Canine Partner mum Rosa had her first litter - special because this was the first Doodle litter to be bred by Canine Partners. She had 8 gorgeous puppies that are now all doing really well with their training to become future canine partners.

- Nicola, Breeding Department volunteer



Volunteer voices



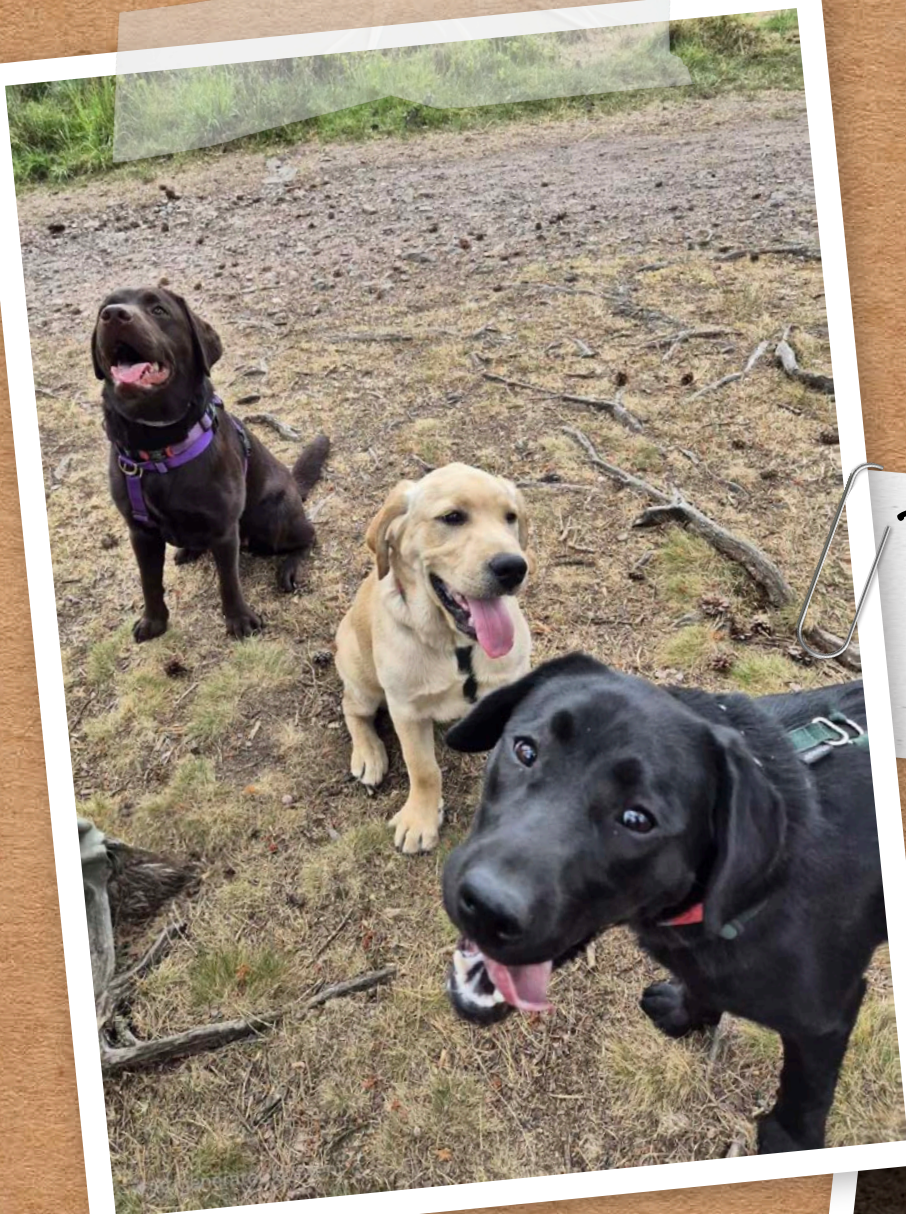
Introducing Crunchy, who produced 15 pups during her career as a canine partner mum. Helping her raise her beautiful babies was an emotional and uplifting experience and a memory which will stay with us. With Crunchy's zest for life, not to mention her cheeky looks, she will no doubt go on to an exciting future!

- Katerina, Breeding Department volunteer



Stephanie, PUPPY Training Volunteer





3 canine partner pups at Cannock Chase,
loving life being life changers...
- Pete, Puppy Training Volunteer

My memories are of all the
wonderful, special pups we
have had the pleasure to
have parented. Vera, Lexi,
Annie, Wyndham, Tylney,
Hank and Joanie. Each one
has brought so much joy.

- Liz, Puppy Training
Volunteer



The power of partnership



My first canine partner Alucia, named because they couldn't call her Lucie as there was already a canine partner with that name, so as she was in the "A" batch they put an A on either end and became a very special partner. Unofficially known as the "Pocket Rocket", she lived up to that name learning new taskwork really quickly. When she got it right, she would jump up with joy, with all 4 feet in the air!

- Pam

Canine partner Chester - My heart, my strength, my constant. You gave me freedom, independence, and a love that asked for nothing in return. Your spirit lives on in me every day.

Thank you for being my everything, and to Canine Partners for the gift of you. I am forever grateful to everyone who helped shape you into the extraordinary dog who changed my life.

My ring bearer, my baby boy, my best friend — you will forever stay a part of my soul.

- Claire





The first memory I have of canine partner Bugsy, was the day I went to meet him for the first time in December 2014, this is a day I shall always remember. It really was the best day of my life, a very special day indeed...

Bugsy & his Assistance Dog Trainer entered the room where I was eagerly waiting to meet him. The door opened & they walked in & I was greeted by Bugsy who was carrying a soft toy cat. Bugsy was wagging his tail eager to say hello. I had tears of happiness in my eyes, and a lump in my throat. The moment I met him I fell in love instantly!

Little did I know what an amazing life changer he was going to be. Bugsy is a very loving gentle & kind boy, he's a wonderful companion and my best friend.

Canine partner Bugsy has opened up the doors to independence again, he truly has transformed my life. Bugsy helps me do so many tasks which I can no longer do myself, either when we're at home or out & about. I am able to live my life again thanks to Bugsy being by my side giving me back the independence which I have lost, by helping me when I need him too.

- Sam

Canine Partners, thank you. You gave a gift that is so precious. My Robinson, he coming to age 11, he has helped me be me and helped me every day. He's kind, loving, caring and full of fun.

- Samantha



The power of partnership



Here are some photos of canine partner Austen training on residential week. First time meeting Austen, he has changed my life. With being more independent in my life, brought confidence in going out in the community and

hospital appointments, he give me a reason getting up in the morning.

The third photo makes me smile every time I look at it. Our dogs have fun as well as helping working.

- Helen

Questa winning Scruffs at crufts 2022. So proud of how well she behaved all day.

- Hazel



Me and my canine partner Lexi with our friend Debbie Dust who I met with her husband Simon and his Canine Partner Vera on our OST. We've stayed in touch since and along with Peter and Liz (Lexi and Vera's puppy parents) we've met up and supported each other throughout our years with Canine Partners despite living a fair distance away from each other.

- Charlotte





How do you pick a memory when there's SO many moments I will cherish forever? From the very first time we caught sight of the utterly gorgeous Bumble as she sashayed through the Heyshott training centre we were smitten. To be perfectly honest even if she hadn't been drop dead gorgeous we would have still loved her. We were so honoured to be blessed with a canine partner and even though we had heard many, many times how life changing they were it's not until those four furry paws step into your life and heart that the enormity of this becomes amazingly real.

Bumble was at Sandra's side for nearly 10 years, through all the good and tough times. The joy in both their faces when they were out on their travels, the people Sandra met, the new friends they both made, the independence Bumble gave back to Sandra and the confidence she restored. I have all of these memories firmly locked in a very special place in my head and heart. Canine Partners gave us back joy in our lives in the form of Bumble.

Sadly, Sandra couldn't fight her illness any longer and parted this world in March 2025. To say Bumble and I are lost without her is an understatement but I am SO very lucky to still have Bumble there at my side now. I promised Sandra many times I'd be okay when she wasn't here, and I am, because Bumble's right here with me.

Canine Partners lit up our lives with Bumble and we will be forever truly thankful to everyone who played a part in those truly special set of golden paws.

- Helen

A snapshot of 35 years...



Southern Training Centre, Heyshott



Assistance Dog International Accreditation



Many raffles and tombolas over the years!



2003



Looking back to the 1990's..

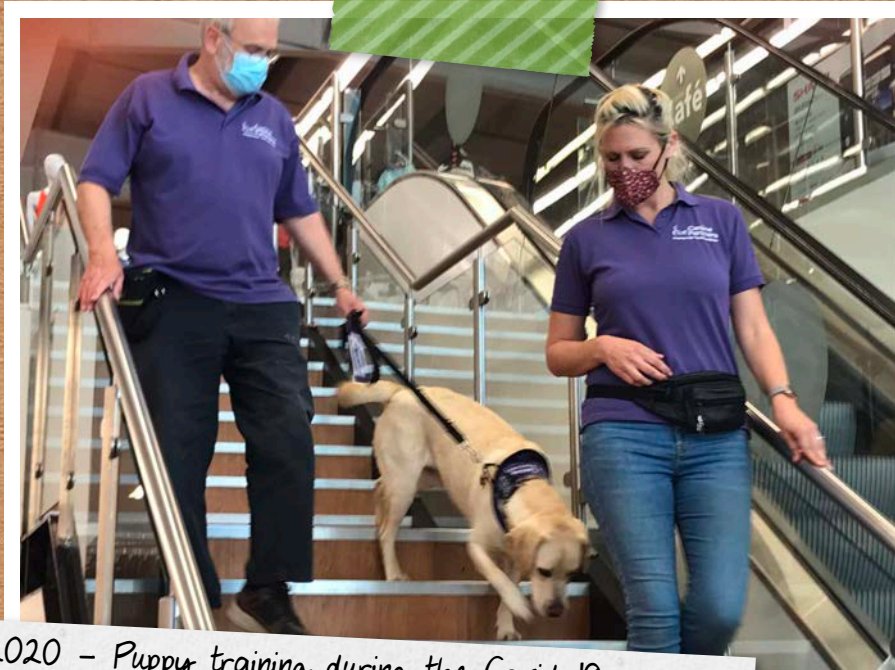




MAP puppies Vs 'Sloths' (end of an era when they went!)



RHS Tatton 2023



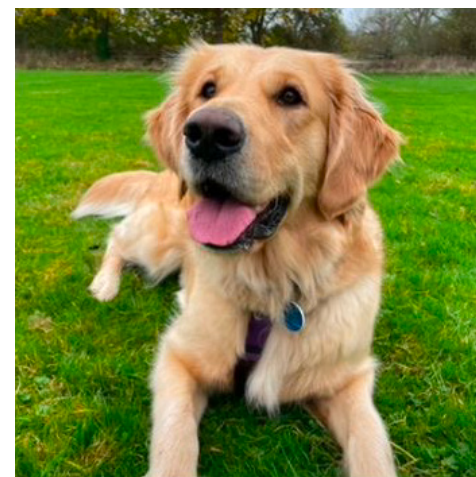
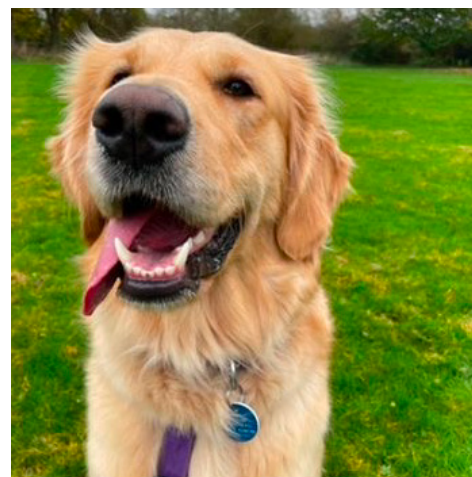
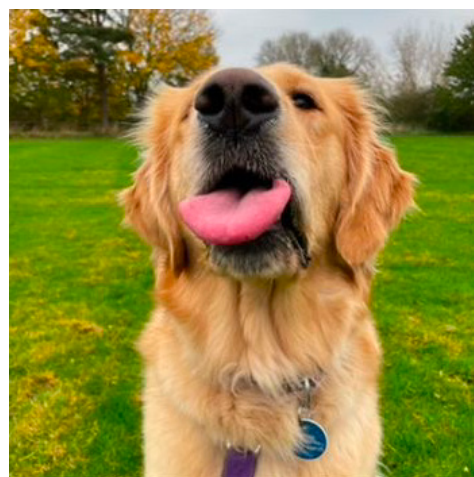
2020 - Puppy training during the Covid-19 pandemic



Our incredible volunteers!



Our 1,000th partnership!



Thank you for being a part of our story

As we look back on 35 years of Canine Partners, we're reminded that this story has never belonged to just one person, one place, or even one moment. It belongs to all of us — the people, the dogs, the partnerships, and every supporter who believed in what we do.

Thank you to our staff, past and present, who have given their skill and heart to this mission. To our volunteers, whose generosity makes everything possible. To our donors, fundraisers, and friends, who share our vision of a more independent, inclusive world.

And above all, thank you to the incredible partnerships at the heart of Canine Partners — whose courage, connection, and companionship show us what's truly possible when we work together.

Here's to the next chapter, and to many more lives transformed!