

## NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2010

## Kidding Around



I have been back working at Happy Landings for two years now, and I am very pleased to be back. I love working with all the animals but the ones that have given me hours of entertainment (as well as bruises) are the goats. We have just four at the moment:- Billy and Martha - the perfect pair, these two are defiantly in love, hand reared they are happy to have as much attention as possible. Newman - very much like an annoying little brother and will get up to mischief whether he is having attention or not. Not quite head of the herd but he never gives up trying. Kid - head of the herd and my baby! At the grand old age of 16 he is still going strong and until he gets to know someone he will protect his herd. Although I love my gorgeous goatees they need a home. They have lots of space at happy landings but due to foot rot we need to rest the land and do not have any alternative for them. Ideally we would like to find the goats a forever home or alternatively we would like to foster them out for about a year. If you have a secure large field with good shelter and hard standing, and would consider taking on my babies, please get in touch. They love attention and in return they will give you hours of amusement and affection. Although they get on well they can be split up (except Billy and Martha as they really are in love) and will mix with other goats/sheep.

## Thank you to our new supporters

In our spring newsletter we reported that one of our new patrons, Bel Mooney, writes a weekly column in the Daily Mail. Last June Bel wrote a wonderful article in The Saturday Mail about Happy Landings and the work we do and how, like most other rescue centres, we were struggling with the sheer numbers of animals needing to come into rescue and how the knock on effect of that is affecting our financial reserves.

We had the most amazing response to that article not just in financial donations, which we desperately need and are so grateful for, but also in morale boosting terms of animal lovers from all over the country who until then didn't even know of our existence taking the time to contact us and offer support. The good wishes, sharing of personal stories and a genuine interest to listen to our story and how we make a difference to hundreds of animal's lives every year has just been truly touching and uplifting!

In the present financial climate where every single penny counts and everyone's personal finances are stretched to the limit it is difficult to ask for money, but ask we are!!

It has been a difficult year for us. There is an ever increasing demand for animals to come into rescue and we accept as many as we possibly can from within our local community and beyond as need arises. If you feel you can support us, and every penny makes a difference, please take a look at some of the options.

Help us to continue to help the animals in our care; we can't do it without you.



## Ways to help

- Join Happy Landings own 'lottery', and tell others about it too. Our 200 Club offers you the chance to win £50 each month and there is an annual draw with a top prize of £1000. Profits from the 200 Club go towards our vet bills.
- Sponsoring an animal unit costs a few pounds each month and is a great way for a family, group of friends, school or

business to support us. Each unit sponsorship helps with the cost of food and other materials and you get updates on 'your' animal until it is happily re-homed.

- A popular way is to set up a Standing Order and support us on a monthly basis.
- Organise your own fundraiser or sponsored event. We have forms and promotional materials to help.

**Our own fundraiser is on extended sick leave at the moment and Office Manager Lyn is trying to juggle several roles. If you have fundraising skills and would like to offer a little of your time and expertise she would certainly be grateful. Please contact her via the office by phone or email.**

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Happy Landings.**

**Don't forget to let us have your contribution for the next newsletter. Or if you want to talk to us about a sponsored event or to help with fundraising in any way.**



**Happy Landings Animal Shelter**  
Pye Hill, Pylle, Shepton Mallet  
Somerset BA4 6TG  
01749 860350

Registered Charity No. 287194  
(Founded 1983 by Miss Annabelle Walter)  
enquiries@happy-landings.org.uk  
[www.happy-landings.org.uk](http://www.happy-landings.org.uk)

PPS Commercial Print Limited, Frome, www.ppscommercialprint.co.uk

Well, we have somehow survived another hazy, crazy summer, although we are not quite sure how! With the demands of animal welfare constantly increasing and needy animals knocking ever more loudly at our door, all possible resources have been stretched to their limits – and beyond. It has been an extremely difficult and at times virtually impossible juggle of space and urgency, vet bills, and staffing levels, energy and the general need of a 48 hour day! Summer is also one of our busiest boarding times and, quite aside from the fact that many of our boarding animals are very special to us and we would not want to let them down by sending them elsewhere, we desperately need the revenue that boarding raises to fund at least some of the welfare work we are doing. Space really has been at a premium! A massive thanks to all of you for the additional support, be it in the form of a cheque, a tin of chappie or a box of kitten food, or simply a thank you for being there to do what we do.

## Dog Show and Fun Day

And oh what fun it was! The new venue, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Cary of Writh Farm, allowed us to have more space for both dog show and agility rings. We had record number of entries in all dog classes giving the judges a very tough time deciding the winners. Thank you to Emma Crouch (Royal Canin), Nina Harris (Trustee) and our very own founder Annabelle Walter. Overall Best in Show



was awarded to Benji owned by Margaret Lloyd.

The crowd were entertained by The Yeovil Dog Agility Club who put on two wonderful displays during the day and oohs and aahs were echoing around the ring as each dog was put through its paces by their handlers. "Have a go sessions" were run during the rest of the afternoon and Club members were on hand to offer advice to all eager (and some not so eager!) 'would be' agility dogs.



Dog trainer Lisa Glover organised the ever popular Dog Scurry, (dogs and owners running and jumping over straw bales to retrieve a treat against the clock) Fastest time was an amazing four seconds!

So many stalls including a climbing wall and bouncy castle for the youngsters (and those just young at heart!) dog merchandise, animal healing, vegetarian food, pet photography - too many to mention all by name but thank you all for your support.

A special appearance by seven beauties from Barton Alpacas made the afternoon complete for many. What wonderful animals! Thank you David for taking the trouble to show them off in all their glory. (The great escape and subsequent human fence of Happy Landings staff and volunteers will be talked about for some time!)

A big thank you to everyone who turned up, entered classes, spent your

money and supported us so well, we raised £3,000. We look forward to seeing everyone in September 2011.

A special thanks must go to all our staff and volunteers, always appreciated, never taken for granted! So many of you gave up your time both on the day and setting up, thank you.

## Buddy the "Foster" Dog

"Oh well, that's that then" I thought, as I saw my daughter's latest foster dog sneak up onto my husband's lap. I didn't say anything but knew what was coming..... "Do you think we could have him" he said. I wasn't over-keen as we already had Becks, our dog of 14 years, but Buddy looked at me and so did my husband, so of course I said 'yes'.

Well, Buddy has settled himself in and has learned really well in the time we have had him. He knows he mustn't jump out of the car or in it until he's told to. He will walk by the side of us for a little while until told he can run off. He will come back when whistled at - unless he sees a deer or squirrel (well, he is a collie!) He was meant to be nippy with kids but has learned to play with the grandchildren as it is fun when they play ball with him. The favourite toy of all is 'Teddy' - he catches him, tosses him in the air, gives him a nibble and sometimes Teddy gets tucked into the basket under the blanket! He's not perfect, still more training needed, (he had 'fun' with my feather cushion recently,) but he keeps us fit, and he is very good. If you were at the dog show, Buddy was the collie who failed miserably when he was supposed to come straight up the run over the hay bales to the opposite direction across the field! But he was happy (and so are we)!

## Rescue Mission

"I wonder if you can help? My lad has just caught a little kitten and we can't keep it - it's wild mind!" The kitten is indeed little, a very undersized starving 5 - 6 week old boy and clearly has never been handled before. Local kids say that there are at least another four that play in and around

an abandoned boarded up warehouse. If they are all like this little lad then they need help quickly – green eye discharge, sneezing, fleas, worms and starving hungry. As we make enquiries during the following week as to who might own the building another 2 kittens are caught, bigger than the first but in much the same condition. Eventually, in desperation, we call the police for advice and are given permission to break and enter if needed, provided we ensure all is safe and secure when we leave. It is not often that we take a tool box and crow bar with us when we go on an animal rescue mission! By the end of a long, hard, but hugely satisfying day, we had caught another four kittens plus a very thin and scared Momma Cat. Momma Cat is extremely timid but clearly has been someone's pet and then become one of the many unloved and unwanted. It will be a while before she is ready to trust again. The kittens are all undergoing treatment for their kitten flu and eye infections but all seven are doing well. Now that the weather is colder they all have both heat lights and heat pads to help them stay toasty-warm. They get bigger and more playful daily! We just wish their story was a rarity rather than so frighteningly commonplace.



#### A Special Thanks To...

There are so many of you that we would like to thank for your help and support, for everything from donations of food and bedding to walking dogs, cuddling cats, knitting blankets and doing sponsored events for us. Although there are too many to thank each individual in this newsletter a selection of special thank yous to... Maggie Forbes Buckingham and her helpers for street collecting in very cold winds in Yeovil and Castle Cary, Des Arnold for donating his time and all required materials to improve the "greenhouse effect" we have had in our New Unit (as well as snaffling him for

many other DIY jobs across site!) , to Stu for always being here to help in any way, to Framptons for their pallets of animal food, to Pen Farthing and Nowzad Dogs for their ongoing support, to Marion Covens and her volunteer home checking team, Brian and Caroline, Audrey Beech, Sue Tinlin & The A Team, Animal Affairs...

#### Volunteers

We are fortunate enough to have wonderful regular volunteers who come up and muck out, dog walk, cat cuddle etc. We are however looking for someone with a bit of time on their hands who enjoys gardening or a spot of DIY. If you think you could spare us a couple of hours a week please ring or email and leave your details. 01749 860350 or enquiries@happy-landings.org.uk



#### Some of our Summer Specials...

Jo-Jo, a young stray cat who gave birth in a hedge but finally accepted help as cold, lashing rain drove her to carry her kittens one by one to a pre-prepared box in the shed. Mumble kitten, who we did not name initially for fear she would not make it, dumped on the road at a tiny 6 weeks with a prolapse – our vets totally fell for her whilst she stayed with them during and after her operation and, against all the odds, she has made it. Putt and Birdie, feral kittens found by a golf course at just 4 weeks old horribly underweight, full of fleas and worms, and terrified. They have stayed diddy but, after ongoing tummy problems, are now fit and healthy kittens. Sadly their sister Tee was too young and weak to survive, despite our best efforts but at least she died warm, full and cared for.

Oscar, our first really aggressive Shitzu in a while, spoilt guard dog of an elderly lady, finally taught to relax and to socialise (it took us a while!) and now thriving in his new home. Misty, a neurotic, agoraphobic, fear aggressive

retriever x collie that came into us so difficult to handle that the family's vet had advised euthanasia, now going for pub lunches and receiving hydrotherapy. A massive thank you to Sue and John for continuing the re-training we did and making Misty (and us!) extremely happy.



#### Christmas Wish List

As all of you write your lists to Santa, hopeful that you have been good enough to deserve Christmas goodies, please could some of you include a couple of little wishes for us? The dogs would love some new toys, the few that we have left are chewed beyond recognition! Also raw hide chews & pigs ears to help stave off the boredom of long winter nights. The cats love toys on sticks and activity stands, Rescue Remedy and Feliway to help with the stress of change. Both the rabbits and the ferrets love tubes and tunnels to play in (not at the same time!) We need to spruce up our hen houses to make them habitable again for ex-battery hens, replacing felt roofs that have blown away, nesting boxes that have finally disintegrated and weatherproofing throughout. We also need a new feed store as our old wooden shed is definitely past it and we are therefore having to cram everything into the old horsebox at the top of our drive – a make do solution that is really not practical long term!

#### Christmas Raffle

We are holding our annual Christmas Raffle again this year. If you are receiving this newsletter by post then a book of tickets is also enclosed, stubs and money need to be returned by the allocated date. If you feel unable to purchase, please return tickets so that other people can buy them. If you have received newsletter by email and would like to buy tickets then please ring or email. Prizes are; 1st - Luxury Christmas Hamper, 2nd - Meal for Two, 3rd - Pets Christmas hamper.

Happy Landings is a small independent charity and relies on the goodwill of our animal loving supporters to help us survive, fundraising activities like this raffle enable us to continue our work. A big thank you must go to 'Just Grenada' holidays for sponsorship of the raffle tickets, which means all monies raised go directly to the animals in our care.

#### "NO" Really is the Hardest Word

"If only we were bigger..." We've said it so many times as we look at what space we do have to try to fit in just one more needy kitten, a final unwanted dog - although we know that we have filled every last corner already and exhausted our ingenuity creating spaces where really there are none. And so we have to say, with great regret, no, I am so sorry but we are full. We take details so that we can keep in touch, give information of other centres just in case someone has a last corner somewhere, apologise and sympathise and give every bit of advice we can to help. As soon as the phone is put down it rings again and your heart sinks when you answer and hear "I'm hoping you can help me..." and again... and again...

With the seemingly never-ending tidal wave of animals needing help our "bit" can feel a frustratingly small drop in a very large ocean. It is of no consolation to know that, even if we were bigger, we would still be full and still be trying to find yet more space. So we work hard to ensure that our "drop in the ocean" is as big a drop as possible and are glad that we can help some, at least, to nurture and mend them in every way we can and to give them a better future. It is the hardest thing in the world to have to say "no" we are sorry but right now we cannot help, we are full to capacity and beyond. In the wee small hours of sleeplessness we wonder and worry for those we are unable to take in and what happens to their futures.

#### Still Needing Homes

Botch, featured in our last newsletter, a lovely staffy found tethered to a kitchen unit depressed, scabby and malnourished. Now gleaming with health he is playful, sociable, polite on a lead and ok to be left for a few hours. He was a big hit at our Dog Show but still has not got a home. He is a smashing dog and really deserves his "Happy Ending". Gizmo, gorgeous little terrier, 4 years old and been through 7 homes. Originally a gypsy dog bred for dog baiting, he arrived un-socialised and very confused. He



adores people and is good with dogs he knows - once he knows that they are safe and not going to attack him! He is not good with any other animals at all and needs a very secure garden...or no garden at all.



Fraser, 5 year old collie x Jack Russell, a wonderful nutcase brimming with intelligence and energy. We have put a lot of work into Fraser who had received no training, socialisation or stimulation. He has been with us for 18 months now and



is more than ready to go to a new home. He knows all basic commands and a range of tricks and would love to learn more. He needs an active home that really enjoy walking (or running...or cycling!) and training. He is great with dogs that he knows and loves playing chase. We would not home him with cats or children.



Millie, 4 year old tabby cat brought in with aggression problems. A low confidence, highly sensitive cat, Millie has had a very bad experience with people somewhere in life. She has been in foster for assessment and re-habilitation and is now ready for re-homing. Millie needs an experienced owner who can help her remain the wonderfully affectionate and interactive cat she now is. Millie can live with dogs but probably needs to be an only cat. She needs some fixed boundaries – much like a dog does - and access to a good outside space. We would not re-home her with children. Honey, a 7 year old beautiful tortoiseshell cat who should have homed out easily but somehow has just got stuck with us. She has lived with a cat-friendly dog and another cat, but would probably love to be an only pet if she could achieve that. She is used to older children and would love a garden to sunbathe in – her favourite spot with us is on the roof of the little shelter in the cat garden.

