



Special Appeals

Bertie



Bertie is the longest resident at Happy Landings. He has been at the shelter for 4 years now. He even has his own Facebook group, Bertie's Blog.

Bertie was brought to us in November 2014. He was rescued by some very kind people from a life chained in a garden and used as a guard dog (although he really isn't)



It was a long process getting Bertie to a point where he could trust his key people but this he did and now lives in long term foster. He is still confused about his role in life and thinks he is supposed to guard although he's not sure how or why.

We have been working with him to try and increase his homing opportunities. He had settled in well but after the loss of his dog friend he had a melt down and struggled with life and people again. He became a bit of a recluse and resisted efforts to go walking. He has recently got to know a new member of staff and is now at the point where he can be harnessed and walked by him. He is still a little unsure how to act indoors but chooses to just ignore him.

Bertie would like a home of his own. He loves the company of other dogs. He would need somewhere that is quiet without passers-by or a noisy road. His potential adopter/s would need a lot of patience to work over time and build his trust. Bertie could not live with children or have children visit. His ideal home would have a separate area where he could go with a bone when there are visitors. He would need a secure garden and high fencing. Although it would take a lot of time to get to know Bertie he really would repay this back with love ten-fold. Underneath his tough looking image he is just a big sappy thing that is scared of the wind and rain and loves nothing more than snuggling up under a blanket on the sofa. If you enjoy working with dogs who have had a tough start in life then Bertie is the dog for you.

Charlie



I like this time of year, when the leaves have fallen and the frost is crunching beneath my toes as I venture outside to explore my territory.

I parade around pretentiously claiming this garden to be my own. I glance back and can see what feels like a thousand eyes staring at me. These are my neighbours and we all live here together. As I clamber up the trees at a hurtling speed I stop to watch and listen, do you hear that? There is a rustling coming from below me. Sneaking down the tree I'm curious as to what might be awaiting me, I freeze, lower my body to the ground, ready, steady, pounce. That's it! I've got it! I roll around on the floor playing with the leaves. I lay in the warm winter sun, dreaming of what it must be like to have a home that I can call my own, with fields that I can explore and trees to climb. The humans here tell me that it's my time soon, that one day someone will come and take me to my new home, where I can explore the countryside by day and snuggle up for cuddles by night.

I can hear someone calling my name now, I jump up from my sun patch, thrilled and excited. I run back in to my room where the same smiling face meets me every week. I place myself comfortably on their lap knowing what's coming next, a couple of dreamies followed by a full body massage. With the gentle hands of this human flowing along my body, I nudge them with my head eagerly prompting for more. I start to roll onto my side, my mouth is drooling from the affection and love. As time passes I hear a soft voice say, "that's it for today Charlie, I've got to visit everyone else, I'll see you next week". I secretly hope inside that she won't see me next week, because maybe by then I may have found my forever home.

My name is Charlie, and I've been a resident here for nearly a year. I'm hoping that one day all my dreams of finding a family in the countryside will come true. Who can resist a handsome chappie like me?



Ambrose & Jasper

Ambrose and Jasper are brothers, they are Giant French lops and are around 2.5 years old. They have always been together, and we have neutered them, but they still have something of a love-hate relationship (so common in many siblings of any species!) Put them together for too long and they get fed up with each other, keep them apart and they pine! Due partly to their size, and partly to the "special" relationship that they have, these two big boys have ended up totally stuck with us and risk becoming bored and depressed. They would love to be in a home all of their own, with plenty of space and different things to do, lots of human interaction - and the opportunity to spend time slightly separate from one another!



Thank You!

Volunteers really are worth their weight in gold and vital in the day to day running of any charity.

Happy Landings is fortunate to have so many volunteers who give up their time and share with us their knowledge and skills - including our wonderful board of Trustees, more of the "hidden heroes" of Happy Landings.

There are far too many to thank separately. Be it organisations or individuals we simply could not do the amazing work we do without you.

To all of you, a heartfelt thank you from all the staff, but more importantly on behalf of all the animals who depend on us and you.

Staff Changes



2018 has seen a few staff changes on our little team for various reasons. We are very pleased to welcome new members **Gabe** and **Nick** on kennels, both previous dog adopters from HL (and not put off by the experience!)

We also welcome **Danielle** who has worked with other rescue organisations so has settled into her role overseeing "others" very quickly and competently indeed, aided and abetted by **Chantelle** who is with us as an apprentice, new to animal rescue but quickly learning the ropes.

Lovely to have you all on board!



HAPPY ENDINGS!



We have had an amazing year for re-homing and have managed to find perfect homes for most of our long termers, which we are over the moon about. Ollie, Flower, Maple, Elway, Milo - everyone apart from Bertie, bless him - all happily settled in their very own forever homes.

It was wonderful to see some of them at our Dog Show, proudly showing off their humans. All have had special appeals at different times so will be known to you: The lovely Ollie, big daft boxer with huge trust and guarding issues, now thriving with a 1:1 relationship in an experienced home. Flower, ex-gypsy lurcher, had such a traumatic life, but is now enjoying long coastal walks and even enjoying the occasional bus ride! Maple, sweet little staffy, a post-Christmas victim found in the middle of the night tied to a gate with huge stranger-danger issues, is now loving life, enjoying sunbathing, BBQs and swimming in the local stream - almost catching the ducks! Elway, collie x, under-stimulated and untrained, complete with hip dysplasia, has finally found his inner dufus dog, happily living in a fabulous collie experienced home. Milo, special little Milo, such serious canine OCD issues that at times we began to despair for him, now living with a gang of dogs and loving being a busy boy, fully believing that he is, undoubtedly, top dog in a very special home indeed!

Everyone of them a heart breaker, everyone of us driven to tears by the futility of it all, then tears of happiness when they have been adopted.

There are not the words to thank the amazing people, who adopt these special animals for the time and understanding, the patience and nurturing, for giving them that last chance that they so deserve.

People often ask us, "how long does it take to re-home an animal?" and are always surprised when we say, "how long is a piece of string?" We cannot put a time on re-homing, it depends on the individual and how long it takes us to find the "right" home. For an animal with no issues, they can fly into their new home. For those with more complicated needs or from difficult backgrounds it will take longer. Of our wonderful special gang rehomed this year the shortest stay was 18 months, the longest was 3 years. We keep working with them, helping them to overcome their issues and to move forwards as much as possible in any way we can. We work on the principle that somewhere out there is the "right" home for everyone, it is just a case of finding it. Never give up!

A Legacy to Happy Landings can provide security and hope for animals that come into our care in the future

"Our experience of Happy Landings leaves us in no doubt that they always put the animals first. We have included them in our wills because we know our money will be well spent in an excellent cause"

We understand that family provision must come first, but please do think about what you could give to our animals and how much they need you to care.

You could secure their futures, ensure that Happy Landings will always be there to help animals when they need it. Without such help, the centre may not be able to survive.

To find out more about how to make a legacy and how your gift could be used please contact Lyn Southway at enquiries@happy-landings.org.uk



PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Please help us by making a donation!

 **£5** could provide food towards hearty meals for a rescued cat or small dog for a week

 **£10** could provide food towards hearty meals for a large rescued dog for a week

 **£20** could pay for a neglected animal to be groomed and nails trimmed

 **£30** could pay for veterinary care to help reduce animal suffering and save their lives

THANKS TO YOU rescued animals will be safe and warm in the care of our Animal Shelter. Many hundreds more will be enjoying a better quality of life in their adopted and foster homes



Minnie Mouse

For those of you who didn't see our online updates, Minnie Mouse was a lurcher brought into us heavily pregnant. Originally found as a stray and taken in by a kind

gentleman, he realised that he could not give her what she needed. She was heavily pregnant and we could not leave her in a risky situation being attacked by the other dog.

With puppies being imminent we did not want to put her into a kennels environment so we took her into foster in a spare bedroom at Happy Landings. She was so very anxious, she needed someone to be with her day and night. She thrived on human company, although incredibly shy and nervous. We worked very hard getting her to be more confident and trusting of people and it was not long before she loved everyone.

Fit to burst, the day finally came when she went into labour and she had 7 beautiful puppies. Sadly 2 were stillborn. 4 of the puppies did really well, but 1 had birth defects and no matter how hard we tried with help from the vets he was too poorly.

The four pups, Goofy, Pluto, Fifi and Daisy, grew rapidly and we made sure that they got to experience as much as possible and learn important lessons for life in the big wide world.

When they were old enough we began looking for new homes and one by one they got their happy endings with loving families. Obviously Minnie Mouse also needed her happy ending and we knew that with everything she had been through she would need someone that really understood her.

Along came a wonderful couple who already had a lurcher, Archie, and had helped him to overcome some difficulties. They fell in love with Mouse, and more importantly so did Archie. On their first meeting they played together and neither wanted to part at the end.

Once all the checks had been carried out, Mouse was able to move in and right from the start she made herself at home. Far from the nervous dog who had come to Happy Landings she was now super exuberant and happy to greet people. This was fabulous as she has helped Archie to be less nervous and he has helped her to be part of their family. The two of them really are the cutest couple enjoying life together.



Kittens and kittens and kittens...

Pregnant mothers dumped about to give birth, tiny kittens picked up in fields, kittens just a couple of months old dumped in hedges - call after call after call. All full of fleas, full of worms, starving hungry... and yet well handled. Someone somewhere had put time into these cats and kittens, given them cuddles and affection, before they threw them out to take their own chances, usually in places where they were unlikely to be found.

So many poorly kittens all needing to be kept separate, all needing isolation and barrier care. We literally ran out of places to use as an isolation area (several months later we still have three living in different bedrooms in the Happy Landings house!)

Three different kittens had an eye so badly damaged by infection that they needed emergency surgery to remove it in the hope of saving the kitten. So many eye drops, hourly for a period, ongoing anti-biotics, specialist anti-biotics, to and from the vets, advice from specialist referral vets...would it ever end? Would it ever work? Would we be able to save everyone and have happy, healthy kittens?

The sleepless nights we all had, the stress, the worry, the tears. And in the end, yes, most of them did turn that all important magical corner when we knew that they were going to be ok. There were heartbreaking moments, there were the few that, whatever we did, however hard we tried, it just wasn't enough.

Huge thanks to our amazing staff and wonderfully supportive vets and vet nurses for going above and beyond to help them all.

Please Adopt Us!



Pickles & Halloumi are two of our summer kittens still with us, and desperate to be in a home of their own. They would love a cosy and loving home with plenty of human company and lots to do outside when they are eventually let out. This pair are particularly special - *can you offer them that extra special home that they so deserve?*

★ Wish List ★

Items that we would really like or are always in need of:

Dog harnesses

We need good harnesses of all sizes, especially ones that are hard to escape from. Brands which are fab examples (but don't have to be) are: Ruffwear, Perfect Fit and Hurrita.

Small grain free dog training treats

Non bio washing powder

Enrichment toys

for dogs, cats, rabbits, small animals and goats

Rabbit chews

Pellet rabbit food

Kitten pouches and kibble

A4 paper and laminating pouches

An industrial style pressure washer

Paws for Thought BARK Appeal The BIG

BARK

We are really pleased to tell everyone that we now have all of our funding to finish our kennels building. This is an exciting step in the project and we look forward to being able to use it next year!

The roof is on, doors and windows are in the process of going in...we are nearly there! It has been a massive task to get to this point and we cannot thank everyone enough for your support. Without you we could never succeed - you are amazing!

We can now start looking at the internals of the building and would appreciate if anybody can help in anyway from getting things like an industrial washing machine/dish washer to installing fixtures and fittings.



Happy Landings Events

We either had a stall or ran a dog show at all our usual events throughout the summer, with an extra venue of Wincanton Horse and Dog Show, so thank you to them for inviting us.

We really have had a great summer of not just raising much needed funds but also meeting all our supporters and getting updates on animals that have been adopted from us. We did have to turn down some new events as they clashed with existing ones, but if anyone is having a show next year then do please ask us and if we are free we would love to come along with a stall and a dog or two!

A big thank you to our event team of Helen, Sue and Jayne - you are all amazing!

May

Festival of Dogs
Shepton Mallet
Kilmersdon
Village Day

June

Collet Park
Festival

July

Crocombe
Village Day

August

Wincanton Dog Show
Clutton Flower Show
Glastonbury Abbey
Dog Show
Buckham Fair

September

Evercreech Village
Show
Happy Landings Dog
Show and Funday

MISSING DOGS

Happy Landings has become more and more involved with missing dogs. We have been going out finding dogs, tracking them using various dedicated equipment, and at times even having to trap them when they have lost all trust and are too terrified even to recognise their owner. As part of this we have recently seen a rise in the numbers of dogs being killed on the roads and railways.

If you find a missing dog, please contact your local dog warden, animal rescue, vet or scanning organisation.

It is really important that dogs are reunited in the right way. If you post a photo online, you could be missing the chance to get a stolen dog back to its original owner. It also means that the relevant organisations can perform checks on the dog to make sure its chip details are up to date, the dog is being properly looked after and all legal requirements of ownership are met. Owners can sometimes need advice if their dog is a regular wanderer.

If you are a dog owner you can keep some scent from your dog at all times in case the worst should happen and your dog goes missing. If you groom your dog and put some fur and a piece of clean fabric that you have rubbed all over your dog into a clean, air tight bag and place it somewhere cool. Refresh the items every few months.

If your dog or the dog of someone you know goes missing, here are some simple steps to follow: –

- Have someone stay at the last place that you were with your dog and, if you took your dog out in the car, station someone at the car. If you have to leave then put a blanket or something with a scent of home in that place.
- Walk around the immediate area calling your dog, using whistles, squeaky toys, the sound of their food packet, bowl, anything they will recognise.
- Register your dog on www.doglost.co.uk and share the link with all your local social media groups.
- Call your dog's microchip company and register them as missing.
- Contact your local dog warden, animal rescues, vets - and the police if you think your dog has been stolen to get a crime reference number.
- Contact a local dog tracking organisation and see if they can offer assistance.
- Print posters from the doglost page and put them up locally, speak to people like delivery drivers, taxi companies and others who will be around the area a lot. Make sure they have a copy of your number on them for sightings.
- Always keep your phone on you and charged.
- If you have other dogs, try walking them on lead in a loop around the area and back to home/the car etc.
- If you are in our area and need help with a dog you have lost or found, then please do get in contact with us at the shelter, or your local team helping missing pets can be found on facebook called SAS (Search And Scan) Somerset

Follow us on Twitter @HappyLandings1
Visit us on Facebook

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www.happy-landings.org.uk



Back Pack Walk

Hi, I'm Sam, a rescue dog at Happy Landings!

Today started off like any normal day, all the usual routines, then the man who looks after me some days came in with my harness and lead and took me out to the car. I thought great walkies, I love walkies! But this was different, things didn't feel the same.

After a short journey the car stopped, he got out and put on a treat pouch and back pack. So now I'm thinking maybe we are going on a hike? He clips a long line onto me and out I hop. We are in a quiet place and he keeps speaking to me really quietly. It's so exciting, being somewhere new and I can't help but run about! But when I do, he stops and waits, so I decide to slow down a bit as he obviously can't keep up! Then he starts to throw treats on the floor and jog away. Each time I go and get the treat, he moves away again. Seems like a good new game, every time I follow him I get a treat!

Eventually we settle down on a grassy spot and he opens the back pack. I pretend not to be too interested at first, but whatever he pulls out is obviously pretty cool because he doesn't want to show it to me. It's in a small box that he opens. He's all excited about it and I manage to sneak a look, I just can't resist! It looks like the little thing humans dip in hot water and call tea. I can smell it strongly before I even investigate it. Wow, it smells amazing! Very odd.

When I've finished checking it, he puts it away. But then he has something else. To start with, I think it may be the same thing again, but he's hiding it and I can't quite see. I go for a closer look, I want to know what special thing he has this time. It feels prickly on my nose when I smell it...what could it be? It's a hairbrush! I think it's his hairbrush, as it smells like him.

The next thing to come out of the bag is another small box. I wonder what is inside this time? He opens it incredibly slowly and I'm a bit impatient. Then I smell a wonderful smell, its food! He lets me slowly smell and taste the food - yummy!

When I'm done he puts the box back and there seems to be something else coming out. I know exactly what this one is. It's a chew. It smells so good. He encourages me to come and sit down with him with the chew. We lie together on the grass, he strokes me as I sit and enjoy the fabulous treat. It feels good to get cuddles and a chew all for me.

When I've finished, we walk back to the car. Whenever I check on him I get given treats, so I make sure I do that regularly. I think he just needs someone to look after him. We get back to the car and I hop back in. I'm feeling very relaxed and happy. I hope we go on another back pack adventure again soon!



If you would like to take your own dog on a Back Pack Walk, please research Steve Mann and see this 15 minute Back Pack Walk can enhance your relationship with your dog. Steve runs the IMDT (Institute of Modern Dog Trainers) and works all around the world. The rescue dogs love his Back Pack Walks, and we hope you will to.

Can we count on your regular support?

Please return your standing order form to us at Happy Landings. If you Gift Aid it then it's worth 25% more to us!

(Block capitals please)

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Address	<input type="text"/>
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