



# NEWS

HAPPY LANDINGS  
ANIMAL SHELTER



AUTUMN 2015

REG. CHARITY NO. 287194

**2015 was the 20th Anniversary of being at our site here at Pylle.**

**We moved here in May 1995 under the new name of Happy Landings, Annabelle Walter (Founder) having sold Heaven's Gate to the National Animal Welfare Trust which she founded in 1983.**

We have rehomed 100s and 100s of animals in that time and made a great many new owners very happy (see success stories later in this newsletter). It is a privilege to work with the animals that we do and to help them find new homes. It is also very special to hear people comment on how we have made their homes and family complete again.

We have had quite a few stray dogs bought in to us recently, only a small portion were micro chipped and therefore reunited quickly with their owners. All the rest were collected by the dog warden and taken to stray dog kennels to wait out their 7 day holding period. If not claimed by an owner during this time then the lucky ones will be moved to a rescue centre to be rehomed.

It is so quick and easy to find an owner by the microchip number, which means less stress for caring owners and far less stress for the dog!

**Remember, by April 2016 all dogs over 8 weeks old must be microchipped by law.**

## ★Christmas Raffle

This year we are not selling tickets as usual, we have enclosed our 'Paws for Christmas Appeal' instead.

All names on returned paws will be put into a hat and the winner will win a fantastic Photo Shoot worth £100 or if the winner is out of our area an equivalent value Marks and Spencer voucher. *Please donate generously.*

## ★Paws for Christmas Appeal

This year we have a 'paw print' Christmas tree and we will be hanging paw prints on our tree. Your message can be for whichever pet is dear to your heart and we will make sure Santa 'Paws' gets to see them!

All donations will go to help the animals in our care so please help us to help them. Thank you.

**We would like to wish all our supporters a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from everyone at Happy Landings**



*"Pets leave paw prints on your heart so add to our tree of paw print art"*

## Online Auctions

We have had two online auctions on our facebook page. One at the end of last year and one at the beginning of this year. These were very successful and raised over a thousand pounds each. We are really grateful to those that supported the auctions in both donating the auction lots and bidding. Thank You

## DOG SHOW 2015



**Our Dog show was a fabulous success in September. We raised over £2500 which is amazing.**

A huge thank you to everyone that helped in every way and to those that attended.

This year our rescue class was a qualifier for Buckham Fair Best Rescue Class and the chance to meet Martin Clunes. We look forward to seeing the winners next summer at the fair.



## Staff and Volunteers Celebration Evening



We had a fantastic BBQ and celebration evening in August as a thank you to all our volunteers. We also unveiled our brand new van and a huge thank you to everyone who gave to our Vantastic Appeal.

## Dates for your diary...

Over the Winter keep your eyes peeled for our 'Online Pet Show' where not only can you enter your dog pictures but also cat, rabbit and any other pets you may have. There will be a variety of classes and it will be great fun!

### 2016

- ★ Glastonbury Abbey Dog Show - Aug 7th
- ★ Buckham Fair - August (date to be confirmed)
- ★ Our Funday and Dog Show - September 11th ...Gets bigger and better every year!

*Other local events across the summer will be advertised online*

## 2016 CALENDARS

Don't forget we have calendars for sale at £4.99 each.

Every month features one of our ex rescues. If you would like to buy a calendar all money raised goes to our BARK appeal.

They would make a lovely present and have gorgeous pictures, so get your orders in!

## Bertie

Kept on a long chain as a guarding dog, Bertie's job was to run to the end to the chain and bark at everything that went past – people – children – even vehicles – run and bark, run and bark.



His luxury accommodation was a small leaking kennel, which he shared for a while with a cat – his sleeping buddy and only friend. He was fed when someone remembered and took more than his share of beatings for no particular reason other than that he was there.

After 3 years of this life Bertie was, thankfully, rescued and brought to us. Bless him, all he knew was guarding and barking. It took a while to make friends – it has taken longer for him to begin to truly trust us. Much as he was happy to sit on our knees (I know,

ridiculous given his size!) have attention and cuddles, until very recently he has still been waiting for those beatings – any second.... any second....He hates the rain, is terrified of high winds and thunder – poor boy, imagine all the times he must have quaked, alone in his kennel in the dark.

Bertie will always feel he should guard the home, he had to do it for so long and from such a young age it is engrained in him. He needs an adult only home in a quiet location where he can finally relax and enjoy life. Given the time to get to know you he loves 'his' people, loves cuddles on the sofa, loves a passing fuss, a long walk, has even learnt about toys with us and now enjoys playing too – look out, Bertie's careering around the house having a funny 5! He absolutely loves other dogs, loves to play chase or even just to hang out with them, more than happy to share everything with a doggy friend to two.

Bertie is only 3 ½ years old, barely out of puppyhood for a large breed dog, yet he has had no chance to be a puppy, just a really hard life. He deserves the exact opposite for the rest of his life – love, security and understanding.

**Can you offer Bertie that home?**

## Pigs

**This little piggy wants a home!**

Wanda and her two sons were rescued with us last year. Successfully re-homed locally, they have enjoyed a lovely time and gained massively in confidence and condition – they are very different pigs from the ones we first had!

Unfortunately the circumstances of the adopters have changed and the pigs are unable to stay long term. We are therefore looking for a new home for them.

Twiglet, Daisy and Maisy are very much an established trio and are just coming up for a year old. They love human company and plenty of space to rootle. They sleep in a snug, warm, deep-bedded shelter at night. They need good, secure fencing – electric fencing does not work for them – but are happy to share with other livestock and poultry. They are great rotavators if you have a large area that needs work!



## COCO



**Special Coco, such a sensitive girl, so very clever, so very difficult to find the right home for her.**

Coco came to us just after Christmas last year. Already struggling with an older child (they avoided each other at all costs) there was no way she was going to cope with the new baby – especially as the new nursery was to be situated in Coco's special quiet room!

Coco shut down completely when she first arrived. She slept as much as she could, stayed hidden away and would only sneak out to eat – we could get no interaction from her at all. Gradually, with time and patience, Coco began to come out of her shell a little. We used a variety of food challenges to get her using her brain, interacting and exploring her den. Eventually she found the joys of the cat garden – loved that! Now she talks to us, is no longer fearful of eye contact, will come to you in the garden, sometimes even allow a little head rub – small things but massive for Coco. So so slow to trust, but such a fabulous cat, we would love to see her in a home of her own, she would progress so much more quickly.

Coco needs an adult only home with a good, interesting outside space and people who are happy to continue investing time in gaining her trust. She is so worth the effort and will undoubtedly be the best cat and most rewarding little project. She just needs to be given the chance.

## SPECIAL APPEAL

**Dearest, special Kyte. We are sure you will all have seen the desperate appeals for a home for her - local media, radio, social media, posters in every shop, vets, dog walking area, anything we can think of.** The dog with the biggest heart, still stuck in kennels 3 years after coming to us. Staff are putting everything into trying to help her and keep her happy, but still we are on a knife edge with her and have to find her that special home. With her massive trust issues only main staff can interact with her, with the exception of a couple of long term volunteers who have put hours and hours into Kyte, gaining her trust, enriching her life. Kyte loves 'her' people, loves her jaunts off site for exciting walks, loves her lunchtime play and cuddles, time spent in her mock lounge, playtime in the field – all of this, every day.... but still it is not a home and it is not enough.

Kyte has had a troubled past, will guard, can be fear aggressive if strangers come too close. With her issues the home has to be 'just right' for Kyte. She can walk out with other dogs she knows but cannot 'do' any other animal. She needs a quiet location where she can relax and be happy with people who will be glad to put a lot of time into gaining her trust – always with ongoing help and support from us. Their reward – a life time with Kyte – it doesn't get any better than that! *She is so so worth it and is the best, biggest hearted, most generous dog you could ever hope to meet.*



# Success stories...

Many of you will remember Frazer from previous newsletters – one of our long term ‘specials’. He had a good life with us as he could not cope with kennels so ended up living in the house with the other house dogs. However Frazer watched so many dogs come and go and he was longing to find a home of his own. He had people who would walk him regularly and take him out for little trips in the car, which he loved doing, and we really hoped to find someone that could do this with him all the time. Various people enquired about Frazer but due to his past he found it hard to trust dogs and therefore needed time to get to know dogs are ok before he learnt to like them. People found this hard and we knew he needed the right home for his needs. Eventually after 5 years that home came along. Helen and Frank totally fell in love with Frazer and had an amazing home to offer him. He is so incredibly happy and we couldn't have asked for anything more perfect for him.

## Frazer

Helen & Frank sent us this:



*I'd like people to know that adopting an older dog with "issues" isn't as scary as it sounds! Having Frazer in our family has enhanced all our lives and brought us so much joy. He is such a fun little character with a big streak of Scallywag! When I first met Frazer he seemed quite shy. With he's big brown eyes and his expressive eye brows. But his waggy tail hinted at a more excitable nature! I decided I'd like to get to know him better before making any rash decisions. I came back several times over the next few weeks bringing family members and their dogs to meet him. They all got on well. When my husband first met him Frazer just jumped up and licked his face, I just knew it was time to take him home. In the months he's lived with us we've had so much fun and adventure. Loves his walks and being let off over the fields to run is a joy to watch. Even more a joy that he comes back! We've learnt to trust each other and what situations to avoid. I forget he has "issues" because in his new environment they are rarely encountered. I love my furry friend so much. I can't thank Happy Landings enough for introducing us.*

## NEW SMALL ANIMAL AREA

We are in the process of building new areas for our rabbits. The hope is that it will provide much larger accommodation for them and they will be able to live in bigger social groups.

Not only will it be much better for the rabbits for social development and enrichment it also means that when someone comes up looking for a single rabbit to adopt, because one of a pair is left lonely, it will be easier to take one out of a group.

We currently have 2 of the 4 sheds needed for the 4 areas so if anyone has or knows of any 6 x4 sheds that need a new home please let us know. We are also looking for pallets as we are recycling them to make the fence. In fact we hope to make the whole area using recycled resources so that not only will it be a lovely new rabbit area but we can be happy in the knowledge we have done our bit for the environment.

Once the areas are built we hope to put in mounds with recycled pipes like man-made warrens and lots of fun things for the animals to play on and do.



## Bertie



Jackie sent us this:

*We first saw Bertie 14 months ago and at the time he was very poorly and we were told that he would probably never be well enough to leave Happy Landings and be rehomed. I was looking on the Happy Landings facebook page about 6 weeks ago and spotted Bertie who was now looking for a new home. When I contacted Happy Landings to enquire they were very honest with me about his behaviour and what to expect and not expect from him, they also said that he had come a long way since last year and was doing better than they had hoped, we decided we would visit with him. We went several times and got to know a little bit about him and what he liked and didn't like, we chatted with staff who were always very helpful and always made time to speak to us, even when we overstayed our welcome!! Because Bertie is a special boy, we decided to take him home to see how he would settle as we have two other cats, one being Poppy who is a permanent foster also from Happy Landings.*

*I am really pleased to report that Bertie has settled really well, and now an accepted part of the family. We took Bertie on the understanding that we would give him a trial just to see how he settled, not just for us but for him as well, but after a chat with Hubby we have decided that we could not now be without him. Yes he is a little different from other cats but he deserves to have a loving home and we feel with Happy Landings support then that home is with us.*

A little background on Bertie – he came to us as he was struggling to recover from some neurological damage due to an RTA 6 months previously. Only 3 years old, he easily looked the wrong side of 10!

Hunched up, scowling and very defensive, he no longer knew how to jump, how to climb, even how to use a scratching post, the joys of catnip – he had basically forgotten how to be a cat. Miserable, scared and at times aggressive, he hated us, hated other cats and we had doubts about whether we could help him. Slowly slowly, step by step, managed to teach Bertie much of what he had forgotten – and with every breakthrough he became, little by little, a happier cat! Although he will never be 'normal' Bertie now jumps (the boy who could not get above 6 inches!) jumps onto their bed every morning, with their other cat, for his ritual morning head rub...and he now purrs!! Thank you Jackie and family – without people like you we could not do it.

## STAFF CHANGES

**A sad goodbye to Tiff who left us earlier this year to pursue her career in hydrotherapy. Tiff was a very valued member of our kennel's team and we were all very sorry to see her go (lovely to see her back when she has the time to spare taking our long term dogs off for jaunts)! Thank you Tiff and good luck!**

**In October we welcomed two new members of staff: Dr Charlie Beldon (canine behaviourist) and Emma Mason (fab with everything). We were short staffed for nearly six months this year while looking for the right people and we are delighted to have such experienced and dedicated members on our team**

## Ariel



Driving back in the wee small hours from a party, a little scrap of cream was spotted on the side of the road. The car slowed to investigate – a puppy, out alone in the middle of nowhere, clearly dumped and left to die.

All ribs and legs, this skinny, nervous little thing was brought to us and fostered by a staff member. Beyond the pup's digestive problems and natural terror of being left even for 30 seconds, it quickly became evident that something was wrong with her. A vet visit led to xrays – her back leg was badly broken. Now an old injury healing badly, she had been give a good kicking and, so tiny and vulnerable, it had smashed the bone completely. For a while it looked like she might lose the leg, this poor little scrap, barely 10 weeks old, it was heart breaking. We took her to a specialist orthopaedic surgeon who was wonderful with her (thank you, Hamish Denny) and Ariel kept her leg. It will always be a little different, but does not bother Ariel one bit. She has since been adopted and is loving life in her new home playing with her doggy friends.

**In this our 20th Anniversary year of our site at Pylle, Happy Landings Animal Shelter is pleased to unveil plans for our Regeneration Project.**

We have planning permission to (over time) knock down all existing animal accommodation and build new ones.

This will take place over three phases, the first being new kennels. Our present kennels are over 30 years old and in desperate need of an improvement. We pride ourselves on the care we give to both rescue & boarding dogs and all the staff are excited about the new facilities matching that standard of care.

The building will have 30 kennels the same as now (we don't want to get bigger just better) and will be a combination of rescue and boarding. The rescue kennels are wider than the boarding kennels because often the rescue dogs will be with us for a longer period of time and ensuring the happiness of these animals is our primary charitable objective.

The boarding kennels are still significantly larger than the recommended size.

Environmentally sustainable design carefully positioned to make the most use of solar energy and has been designed to have a minimum heat requirement but maximum light.

- Maximising solar gain
- Reducing energy bills
- Reduced water usage
- Utilising natural light to create a pleasant environment for the dogs
- Partition wall ensures no dog has to be in direct sight of another dog, to reduce stress levels
- Covered yards immediately adjacent to indoor kennels will provide freedom of choice for the dogs and reduce the time spent by staff moving them around

Aimed at creating a calming and safe environment for the animals, while also reducing the staff time spent cleaning and carrying out



tasks that relate to the old building. Staff can spend more time rehabilitating the animals and enriching their experience whilst at the centre creating a stress free environment for animals, many of whom have been through traumatic experiences.

The brand new building will be located on the present exercise paddock, which will enable us to carry on with our existing kennels until the new building is ready.

There will be several methods used to raise the money needed but

supporters to get behind the appeal and start us off in style!

From just a few people locally hearing about the plans we have already raised nearly £40,000 which is an absolutely amazing start but.....we need in the region of £906,000!!

Everyone will receive a certificate if you give us your name and address, and anyone buying a virtual Row or a virtual Wall will have the opportunity to have a plaque with their chosen name acknowledged in the design of the kennels.

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY REGENERATION PROJECT

**HAPPY LANDINGS ANIMAL SHELTER**



**BARK**  
BOARDING AND RESCUE KENNELS

We desperately need to replace our very old kennels with new eco friendly and sustainable facilities

WE ARE SELLING VIRTUAL BRICKS TO RAISE FUNDS SO PLEASE...

Can you help us to give the animals in our care the facilities they deserve?

**Kickstart our kennels!**

**DONATE TODAY**

- Buy a Brick for £10
- Buy a Row for £100
- Buy a Wall for £1000



Everyone donating will get a certificate - ideal present!  
Buy a virtual Row / Wall and have a plaque incorporated in the new build

**DONATE ONLINE:** [www.happy-landings.org.uk](http://www.happy-landings.org.uk) via Just Giving  
**TEXT:** Text BARK15 to 70070 and enter the amount you would like to give  
**T:** Cheque payable to Happy Landings Pye Hill, Pylle, Shepton Mallet. BA4

**Can you help us by buying a virtual brick for BARK?**

- A Brick £10
- A Row £100
- A Wall for £1000

Donate on our website  
[www.happy-landings.org.uk](http://www.happy-landings.org.uk)  
via justgiving

Or send a cheque payable to Happy Landings at Pye Hill, Pylle, Shepton Mallet. BA4 6TG

**Cash! Drop in and see us and take a look at the plans.**

## Volunteers

As always a massive Thank You goes to our volunteers. You are all amazing. We have some fabulous regular volunteers, some who come when they can, and some that really go above and beyond to help the rescue.

We now also have a new volunteer group for any volunteering that isn't directly for the animals care. This may be helping at events we attend/run; helping to fundraise; providing cakes or crafts for fundraising; or providing any other skills that could be useful for the shelter e.g. publicity, legal, I.T. printing, photography or working in a job that may help with supplies like pet items, fencing, plants and many other useful resources.

If you would like to be part of the group, we use email and facebook to stay in contact, then please email [jo.happylandings@gmail.com](mailto:jo.happylandings@gmail.com) with your name, email, area you live, whether you would like to help in general and keep up to date with events or have a specific skill or resource and how you know us.

Do, please get in touch. Thank you.

## Fostering

We are looking for people who would be interested in fostering for us. This could be temporary or long term fostering of dogs and cats for a variety of reasons e.g. Young ones, old ones, dogs with specific behavioural needs etc. If you think you may be able to help please email [jo.happylandings@gmail.com](mailto:jo.happylandings@gmail.com)

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