



Dogs at Christmas

Christmas is such a busy time of year for so many of us. Up go the decorations, in comes a tree, out come the choccies, the kids go bonkers, the house fills with visitors, and you spend long periods out of the house socialising with family and friends.

You may be surprised to read this, but the period just after Christmas can be very busy for dog trainers and behaviourists who are suddenly inundated with calls about dogs behaving 'badly' over Christmas. Rescues also often see an increase in the number of dogs needing re-homing. Why is this? Let's put ourselves in our dogs shoes.

The Tree. Trees are normally outside. They smell great, real trees smell amazing. Dogs do not understand that they can chew on and pee on trees outside, but bringing them inside suddenly means that they are special and that they are a dog free zone. We then make the tree even more exciting by throwing on some decorations, sparkly lights and chocolate, and putting presents underneath. Come on, what do we expect? We have just given our dogs a giant, really exciting toy!

To reduce the chance of having problems with your dog and the tree put a barrier around it while your dog gets used to it being there. It is also good to teach your dog a solid 'leave' before you even get to Christmas. Allow your dog to have a sniff and look at the tree, but as soon as your dog turns away from the tree mark the behaviour with a yes (or click if you clicker train) and reward the behaviour. Give your dog extra

goodies to play with and chew on - life away from the Christmas tree needs to be more exciting than life at the Christmas tree.

Chocolates, mince pies, Christmas cake etc. Keep them out of reach of your dogs nose. Even if your dog has never stolen food before, do not risk it. All of those foods are potentially toxic to your dog. Pass the choccies around and then stick them back in a cupboard.

Visitors. Ok your dog may be the most sociable dog in the world, but a busy house may still become a bit worrying for him. Nervous dogs can find loads of visitors terrifying, so you need to be extra prepared.

- 1) Create a safe area just for your dog. Pop their bed into an area where no visitors go, allow your dog to retreat to that area whenever they want. Do this several weeks before Christmas so that by Christmas it already feels like a safe place for your dog.
- 2) Get a plug in diffuser such as Adaptil or Pet Remedy to help your dog remain relaxed and keep those cortisol levels low.
- 3) Give your dogs lots to chew on. A nice raw bone, a stuffed Kong, a carrot - whatever they like! Chewing can help lower your dogs stress levels!
- 4) Do not expect your dog to greet every visitor, and do not allow your visitors to bombard your



dog with cuddles. Ask your visitors to leave your dog alone unless your dog approaches them.

Leaving at home. Your dog may be used to being left for periods of time, however some cannot cope with being left. If your dog has separation anxiety it is best to ask a dog behaviourist for help months in advance and leave your dog as little as possible.

Many issues need a face to face consultation with a trainer or behaviourist so contact a reputable one near you.

Thank You!

Two words that can never adequately express our gratitude to all our volunteers who help at Happy Landings or events.

Mark, Chris, Nick and Will, DIY and gardeners extraordinaire - we would be lost without you, thank you so much. **Hilary** who has created our lovely sensory garden. **Helen, Sue and Jayne**, the event team - amazing just doesn't cover it. **Office vols, cat cuddlers, dog walkers**, too many to mention by name, but we thank each and every one of you. **Marion** and her **post home checker team** - we are exceptionally grateful to them all for giving up their time to do this important role on our behalf. A huge thank you to our **Trustees**, all of whom voluntarily give up their time to keep us on the straight and narrow. We would also like to say a massive thank you to **Tesco Shepton Mallet** who have supported us in so many ways this year and **Dobbies**, where Happy Landings have been their local charity this year. Thank you to **Sarah and Deb**, the community champions, we really value your continued support. Thanks also to **Delaware Vets** and **Langford Small Animal Practice**. Happy Landings would like to say a huge thank you to **Hannah Meeker** at **Brookbarn Canine Rehabilitation**. Hannah offers clinical massage and hydrotherapy (vet referral is required). She also offers a free muscular health check to assess any areas giving cause for concern. We have a couple of dogs visiting Hannah at present and the difference therapy is making is remarkable. Hannah has endless patience and a total commitment to any dog's wellbeing. We would highly recommend Brookbarn Canine Rehabilitation to anyone needing this sort of therapy for their dogs.
www.brookbarnrehab.com



Staff/Trustee Changes

This year we have said goodbye to **Helen** (farm/small animals supervisor and cat whisperer!) and **Jade** (kennels organiser and dog whisperer!) and wish them well in their future endeavours.

We have welcomed **Rachel** (kennels supervisor and behaviourist) and **Sammy** (budding dog whisperer!) both on to kennels, and **Millie** (farm/small animals supervisor, animal physiotherapist and rabbit fanatic!) We are very glad to have them all on our team.

Robin and **Tom** resigned as Trustees earlier in the year after several years of being on the board. **Megan, Dave** and **Nicola** have joined us and we look forward to working with them.

Success stories...

Gismo



Gismo came into us in a bit of a mess. The reason given for re-homing was that he was scared of the new puppy, but as the conversation progressed more information came to light. He was also scared of the toddler who terrorised him, spent most of his life hiding behind the microwave, had never been vaccinated, never been neutered, had an untreated eye infection and never seen a vet in his 4 years of life. Alarm bells began to ring and we knew we needed to get this boy in as soon as possible. When he arrived he was very underweight with dirty, matted fur, running with fleas, anaemic and a badly infected eye which we thought he would most likely lose. He was clearly a very unwell cat, in pain and distressed. We took him straight to the vets where they gently began to treat him, and test him for all the things he was likely to have - there was quite a list!

Gismo came home with us and lived in an isolation unit whilst we awaited the test results. We were delighted when the results showed, despite all the odds, Gismo did not have anything life threatening after all, but he did still have to be isolated. The treatment continued but we didn't see him properly for weeks. He was so scared of people he curled himself into a ball and hid as soon as he heard anyone. However, with lots of TLC, little and often meals, treats

every time we did his eye drops, lots of reassurance and gentle talking, Gismo began to gain confidence. Slowly but surely he stopped hiding and began to greet us eagerly and jump up for his cuddles. We neutered him, had his mats shaved off and finally he could have the first eye surgery.

A month later he had to be referred to a specialist ophthalmologist for a second op, a very delicate corneal graft, in a last attempt to save his eye. We blew an entire month's vet budget in one go, but it was worth it!

Gismo is now unrecognisable from the cat that arrived. A glossy, white cat, full of affection and character who plays like a kitten, is keen to meet everyone, loves to be cuddled and gives kisses and face rubs (we don't teach them any naughty habits at all!) He was the perfect fit for Danni and family when they came looking for a new cat to join their family. After nearly 6 months of isolation and treatment, Gismo is finally in his new home, happy and settled - and loving life.



Lucy

It was a desperate plea - a 2-year-old lab x collie, very fearful and possibly aggressive with people, currently in a home that did not in any way meet any of her needs and due to be euthanased on Monday. Could we help? We desperately needed an experienced foster home that would know how to gently bring a dog like this forward, but who would have that level of knowledge? SUE & JOHN! Perfect! Having adopted a nervous, aggressive retriever from us some years ago and completely turned her around, we knew that they would have just the right approach for this scared girl. If anyone could help her it was them - and bless them, they were only

too glad to help. We drove her straight to their home as soon as she got here, huddled in the back of the car, so scared she could barely even walk and had to be part coaxed, part carried. Sue worked with Lucy for months - it took Lucy far longer to begin to trust John - and this is her story...

Lucy arrived here, absolutely terrified, she didn't trust anyone, and was so scared, she wouldn't even eat - now for a Labrador, that's scared!! As Happy Landings staff weren't yet sure how she would react to other dogs, her first safe home was a purpose-built summer house (with carpet, dog bed, dog-duvet, toys and chair) within an enclosed yard.

Sue worked with Lucy for months. Her first evening was spent behind the chair, growling, while Sue sat on the floor talking to her until the light faded. The following morning the growling continued, but the food had been eaten overnight and she actually ate breakfast. Most of that day too was spent with her hiding, but the growling gradually eased off. The next day, a miracle! She felt confident enough to roll on her back - it was great to rub her tummy and when she was going to be ok. It was about 4 days until she accepted being on a lead. She looked forward to her walks and she loved running free in the field (and only once abused the privilege and legged it into the neighbouring woods!

Three sets of people who enquired about her actually made the journey to see her and they all seemed to fall in love with her, although her problems were too much for them to take on. She was still extremely wary of new people and other dogs. However, her fourth visitor was hooked, and came several times to get to know her and to take her out, and eventually took her off to her forever home. It was absolutely fantastic to see how far she had come since the quivering wreck who arrived at our door that evening in March. By August, she had discovered how to be a normal dog - well, almost! I'm sure she will have a lovely life with her new mum and I am so happy it all worked out for her.

A huge thanks to Sue and to John for all the time and patience they put into Lucy, the hours spent just sitting with her, chatting with her, reading to her, giving her all the time in the world to feel safe and confident, and enabling her to have a new life.

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



Foster Carers Needed

Do you live locally?

We are looking to expand our team of foster carers to help more dogs that cannot cope with kennels.

Foster caring involves temporarily looking after and caring for a dog in your own home. This role is perfect for people who have experience of owning a dog and want to help, without the permanent commitment of adoption.

Fostering won't cost you a penny! We provide everything that your foster dog needs and will give you full support.

Can you help?

Please pop in and pick up a foster application form or visit our website www.happy-landings.org.uk

We have several wonderful supporters running the Bath Half Marathon on 4th March 2018 to raise money for our new kennels. We will be there with a couple of four legged followers ready with water and woofs of encouragement. If you can help by sponsoring them then please visit our website www.happy-landings.org.uk click on Virgin Money Giving, then donate and use Bath Half Marathon as the reference.

Kyte

We thought it was about time that we gave you all an update on Kyte.

Most of you who have supported us for a while will know that Kyte was one of our hardest dogs ever to rehome. She spent years in kennels due to her not trusting strangers and needing an incredibly specific home. It made finding that home very hard.

But luckily for Kyte an amazing couple, who support Happy Landings in many ways, fell in love with her. They worked with her for months and then took the decision to take her home occasionally, which became more regular, until Kyte has just never come back, except to visit and walk with other rescues.

They have been hesitant for us to announce such wonderful news in case Kyte did not settle. But after 18 months living with them we thought it was about time that our supporters could be as elated as we are for this very special girl, who has most definitely found some truly exceptional people and new dog siblings too.



School & College Work Experience and D of E Students

Happy Landings works with School and College work experience placements and Duke of Edinburgh students. We are lucky enough to liaise with local education establishments on a regular basis. We get inundated with requests every year and unfortunately cannot accommodate everyone, but we do try hard to fit as many in as we can. Thank you to all the students who come in, some for a few hours, some for a week, others for a year. Recently we have been fortunate to work with Millfield School. A fantastic group of students who come in one afternoon a week. All really keen to help, great sense of humour and no job is too small or big! They do gardening and any odd jobs as required, usually with a nice dog walk or cat cuddle at the end. Thank you to them all.

Paws for Thought BARK Appeal Raise the Roof!

BARK

We urgently need your help!

The walls are up, the supporting steels are ready to go on and then we will be ready for the roof.



We would dearly love to also get the doors and windows in before the real winter hits. At present we are just short of our target for this stage. We have monies pledged for the final stage so it really is just monies needed right now to get this important stage finished.

Please, if you can help with a donation then send back your paw with a dedication or message and help us get these fantastic kennels ready for the last stage.

Happy Landings Events

It has been a busy year and we have attended many events. Too many to name them all. Some of the highlights...

The year started with a visit in March from Radstock Devils Scooter Club. They had completed a fundraising "rideout" on behalf of Happy Landings and finished at the shelter. It was tea and biscuits all round and a much needed boost after a long winter. Huge thank you to Tim Arnold and team!

In April we attended our first Seadogs Festival at Burnham on Sea, with a dog show, stalls and agility on the beach. A fabulous day out and we will definitely be going back next year.

At the end of the month we took part in the second year of Festival of Dogs at Collett Park Shepton Mallet. This year the main recipient was Happy Landings. Such a well attended day which proves to just get better year on year. Well done Neil Watkins and team for putting on an amazing event.

In May we joined Marc Aplin on a small part of his "100 miles with a 100 dogs" sponsored walk. We met him in Bath by the canal and walked the most beautiful small section of his epic nonstop walk from Bristol to London. Thank you so much Marc for raising money for Happy Landings BARK appeal.



August saw the team back at Glastonbury Abbey Dog Show to run classes. As always, it was a fantastic day. The sun shone and dog owners turned up from every part of Somerset (and beyond) to join in the fun. Huge thank you to Kath and the Abbey team for organising such a great event and Orchard Vets for two fantastic judges.

The following weekend we had a stall at the ever popular and quite spectacular Buckham Fair courtesy of actor Martin Clunes. Even though it rained late afternoon and the resulting mud meant we needed to be towed off site by a tractor, along with quite a few others, it was a wonderful day.

We held our own Funday and Dog show in September and we raised a fantastic £2555 for our BARK Appeal. Thank you to everyone who took part, all the stall holders, staff, volunteers and to all who brought their dogs to enter the classes, Agility run by Sandra Spence and the always popular Scurry run by Lisa Glover. A lot of the stalls come back every year and we really appreciate their support (and coffee!)

We also attended lots of other village events throughout the year, along with talks, pet services etc. It really has been a very busy year.

If you are organising an animal related event or would like someone to give a talk then please get in touch with Lyn at enquiries@happy-landings.org.uk



★★★★ Easy Fundraising ★★★★★

You can raise money for our rescue animals by simply doing your online shopping through easy fundraising, just follow this link - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/happylandings> you can choose from over 2700 retailers including Amazon, Argos, Ebay etc. And the retailers donate to Happy Landings, at no cost to you, every time you buy.

Follow us on Twitter @HappyLandings | Visit us on Facebook

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

Tel: 01749 860350

email: enquiries@happy-landings.org.uk

www.happy-landings.org.uk



Looking for

Flower

Flower is a beautiful, gentle-spirited four year old Lurcher. She was handed in to Happy Landings in early 2015, and sadly is still looking for a home.

Flower had a poor start in life, which left her with very little trust in people. Thankfully the staff at Happy Landings were there for her, and she is now a far cry from the dog that was rescued. She loves a cuddle on the sofa, enjoys playing with toys and walking in the countryside. Her confidence has grown and she is now happy to go to new places - she has even enjoyed lunch in a quiet pub garden!

Flower does tend to remain very nervous of strangers and needs a home with patient, experienced owners who are happy to invest time getting to know her prior to adoption. Flower is not used to being left alone for any length of time and will need a gradual introduction to being left. Flower has the most amazing personality once she feels safe and confident. She is clever, cheeky and happy, with a naughty sense of humour. Very affectionate and loyal, she is well worth the time invested in gaining her trust. Flower could live on her own or with a laid back confident dog who could help her learn about life. She could not live with cats. Can you give her the home that she deserves, so that she doesn't have to spend another Christmas in Kennels?



Maple

Maple is a 2 1/2 year old girl who holds a very special place in our hearts. Found tied to a gateway with electric cabling in the middle of the night.

Nearly 2 years down the line and after a lot of confidence building, Maple still finds strangers very threatening, especially men. She is desperate to love and be loved, but she finds new people and situations scary and feels the need to protect herself. With those she knows and trusts, Maple is a different dog. She is massively affectionate and loyal, full of fun, very happy and really quite cheeky! Once she trusts you, she enjoys as many cuddles as she can get out of you. She is also very sensitive and can often hide how she is feeling. She will need owners who can appreciate this and can help reduce her stress levels to prevent any reactions from her. Maple is very active, loves walks, loves to play, enjoys water, and is happy to travel. She is clever, with a brain that needs to be stretched - she can be strong willed! Maple needs a home with just one or two adults where she can feel safe and secure and learn to trust again. She doesn't mind spending a few hours on her own, so owners who need to work part-time are not a problem. She needs a safe and secure garden where she can charge around and play. She cannot live with small animals or cats. We would love to talk to anyone who feels that they have the experience and time to work with her - we will be there to help and support every step of the way.



MANY MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

Boarding Recommendations

"Happy Landings provided me with the perfect solution to a very tricky situation when my super anxious dog could no longer come to work with me. She has been day boarding at Happy Landings for 6 months now. The staff have been excellent, they really understand her and the love they have for all the animals is clear to see." Libby

"As the name implies, a very happy sanctuary. Just before we go we say to Alfie, our cockapoo 'would you like to go and see your friends at Happy Landings?' He goes BANANAS! He pulls the girls into the kennels and doesn't look back at me! When he comes home he's obviously had a good time and is quite relaxed. All the staff are friendly and put the animals first."

RECENT RESCUES

Alerted to 3 kittens spotted in the Little Chef car park at Podimore roundabout, staff went out to rescue them before any harm could come to them. All of them terrified, it was a more complicated project than we had hoped. The first kitten was relatively easy, too starved to resist going into a carrier for food...the others were more of a challenge! We were determined to safely secure all kittens and mum and after a 26 hour standoff we caught the last one. A big thank you to everyone who helped. If anyone would like to help we would be hugely appreciative of donations of Felix kitten meat in jelly and kitten biscuits or donations towards getting mum spayed.

A special thanks to Hawkeye Aero and the Badger Group who gave up their time to provide thermal imaging, Burger King for supplying drinks and Travelodge for bringing out a duvet and hot water bottles. Amazing community spirit from genuinely lovely people.

The good luck with the cats was just the start and the week only got better.

One of the things that I do is help to catch dogs that have got lost and are unable to find their way back to their owners. In some cases it is simply a dog that has been spooked on a walk and got lost, like little Malcolm the Affenpinscher, all 5kg of him, who spent 10 days hiding terrified in a wood before he was carefully tracked down and happily re-united with his very relieved and delighted owners. Sometimes it is more traumatic, as in the case of Topsy the Labrador, who ran away after being involved in a terrible car accident and took 11 days of tracking before she was eventually caught.

Many of you will know that for the last 4 months we have been trying to catch a dog called Molly. Molly is a dog who is absolutely terrified of people. She was in rescue with another organisation and placed in a foster home but unfortunately escaped shortly after arriving there, still wearing her slip lead. When we heard she was missing we offered our help.

A highly intelligent, frightened dog who only knew humans as a negative and was used to living outside independently, we realised instantly that this was not going to be one of our "simple" captures. With help from sightings given to us by members of the public we managed to track her...and track her...and track her. In her 4 months living wild she has covered 6 towns! We have been there every step of the way with her, setting up feeding stations and traps in the hope of catching her. So many kind members of the public let us use their gardens and helped us in our work. We have monitored her with cameras gathering endless amounts of footage. We spent so long building her trust she would eventually be waiting when we arrived with food, still keeping a field's distance most of the time, ready for a quick getaway if we did not leave fast enough. We spent countless days and many nights hoping for her to get caught in the trap. Although we knew that she was clever, we could never have imagined just how clever. She knew how our traps worked and would eat without setting them off or avoid them totally. If only she could understand that we were trying to help her.

Unfortunately many people who did not know Molly's story thought she was a normal missing pet and would try to catch her which caused her to get more nervous and to move away to a new area again - back to the beginning for us, more tracking, more filming, more feeding stations!

She took a liking to an old pig sty where I spent many days and nights sat in the freezing cold with a rope system in place to shut the door on her. But she would not go through the door if she knew I was around - although she was quite happy to walk past me to say hello - tease!

Eventually we found a quiet patch of woods in Coxley where she seemed to settle. Here she was happy to come and go day and night and slowly but surely got more used to the trap.

Just as we thought we were nearly there, fireworks scared her off into Glastonbury and then Street. It was soul destroying and we thought we would have to start from scratch. But amazingly, just as we had started to lose hope, she managed to find her way back, as if she felt at home in the set up we had made.

Knowing the carnival was coming, and that she would be very hungry, we wanted to make the most of this opportunity before we lost her. We set the trap again and just prayed that this time we would catch her. Staying all day and night we finally heard the clang of the trap door just after midnight. We raced to the trap to find her in it and, hearts racing, managed to get the trap into our van and get her safely to the shelter. Once back, we could go about cutting off the lead she still had around her neck and getting her warm and safe.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped.

The most huge thanks to Nick Haselwood who has been an amazing support spending many days and nights sat in the cold, bored stiff, traipsing fields and woods, feeding, monitoring, planning, and generally putting up with my stubbornness to never give up!

Thank you to those who have given help with sightings or allowed us to use their land.

A massive thank you to the Brownes of Brownes Garden Centre Coxley and all of the staff. Letting us set up our area and then spending days - and nights! - sat there. What a super place this is with truly wonderful people. The support and help they have given has been more than I have ever known. I just can't put into words how totally amazing they have been and urge you if you are local to visit them. Even if just for the fabulous cakes in the coffee shop. Without John Browne we probably wouldn't have Molly now.

I can now finally get some good nights' sleep knowing that Molly is safe and warm.

Jo Southway

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!

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