

SPRINGER SPANIEL RESCUE

Hello everyone and seasons greetings to one and all!!

We hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and happy, and looking forward to the Christmas festivities. Good to be in touch again to all our regular readers and a very warm welcome to our new ones!

Firstly....as always....a HUGE thank you for all the very kind and generous donations received throughout the year, and also for all the lovely letters, emails and pictures. As you can appreciate, I am limited to the space when putting the newsletter together, so please understand if your letter or photo isn't included in this edition, but it will feature in a future newsletter.



Doggie of the year 2010

As many of you know, we always have a 'Doggie of the Year' award, and this years worthy winner is LULU and her terrific owners. Dear Lulu (pictured above) came into rescue, absolutely terrified of everything!, a totally stressed out little girl, but not any more!!! Please read her amazing story on page 3. Also pictures of our past winners can be found on page 5. You can read their stories from past newsletters on our web-site Newsletter page.

We thank you all for your continued support, we think of you all as a big extended family and we look forward to hearing from you soon with stories and pictures of adventures of your precious Springer's.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy & happy new year.

From all the team at Springer Spaniel Rescue xxxxxxxx

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Summer Raffle Winners

Below is our Summer Raffle prizes and winners. We had a terrific response and are SO grateful to all who supported the raffle. Personally, I would like to give you all a prize!!! But unfortunately that's not possible!!

Also a special thank you to Fay Ewins, an amazing artist, who very kindly provides our 1st Prize.
Please visit her website www.trigonsyseclipse.co.uk

1st Prize goes to:

Mr & Mrs Oakes with Barney of Kidderminster	Oil Painted Portrait of Barney
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Runner Up prizes belong to:

Mrs Dowd with Poppy (Aberdeenshire)	Springer Writing Set
Mr & Mrs East with Penny (Northampton)	Framed Springer Picture
Mrs Hendra with Bob & Molly (Ormskirk)	Framed Springer Picture
Mr & Mrs Martin with Bobbi (Wigan)	Framed Springer Picture
Mrs Cotterill with Jerry (Warwickshire)	Framed Springer Picture
Mr & Mrs Riggott with Rupert (Cromer)	Framed Springer Picture
Mr & Mrs Thomas with Holly & Jack (Preston)	Glass Springer Wall Clock
Mr & Mrs Chapman with Jack (York)	Glass Springer Wall Clock
Mr & Mrs Pease with Tom (West Midlands)	Springer 'Fun' Apron
Mr & Mrs Horner with Sam & Henry (York)	Springer Peg Bag
Mr & Mrs Owen with Harvey (Warrington)	Springer Plaque & 'Doggie' Planner

Once again, many thanks for your support. Well done to all winners, and to those who didn't — there's always next year!!!

Doggie of the Year 2010

Lulu, Springer Spaniel bitch aged approx 2.7 years old.

On the 28th August 2010, my son Johnathon, his Labrador bitch Molly and I visited for foster carer's home of Fiona & Tom, to look at the potential adoption of Lulu.

After a walk in the woods to view how Lulu and Molly gelled together, also seeing first hand some of Lulu's traits with traffic! I decided that it was to be a training challenge for both Lulu and myself. The journey back home to the Midlands with Lulu showed that Lulu was fraught and fearful and this you could well understand with the problems and background she must of experienced. Lulu's problems and fears were featured on the website of Springer Spaniel Rescue and I am pleased that I took the decision together with my wife to take Lulu on.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Fiona & Tom, their family, their two Springer's, for fostering Lulu and showing her a dog loving and caring home. This indeed was a great basis for encouraging Lulu to begin facing her problems.

After 46 days of having Lulu, she is now settled in our home, loving her new bed, large garden space and building a close relationship with Pat my wife. Her looks are changing with the staring bog eyes now reducing, showing a better body build, baulking up the very thin lumber area that she had. She has significant daily working exercise and training, and this helps in strengthening her legs. She likes to be groomed except I ought to go to 'Specsavers' - Sorry Lulu.

Around the home she is well behaved with no issues, she loves the time with Molly and playing with our grandchildren. She shows a happy laughing dog at times with her 'fly-away' ears standing out. This makes us all smile.

Training Endeavour's

Our assessment of Lulu's behaviour highlighted on the website and our observations in the first two days of her being with us was that she was wound like an over-tensioned spring with a broken ratchet brake. This made it impossible to deal with in my opinion....a strong dominance coupled with boredom. In addition she suffered with an aggressive fear that showed itself against noises, speed, size, movement. Her known experiences of attacking vehicles, cyclists, joggers, horses, dogs and others. This condition of fear also showed through with her trembling in rage with her wild eyes/pupils altering with fast spinning around. When taken out she has to be muzzled for her own protection as well as others. That's the negatives.

Positives. We set a target of 6 months giving time, effort, patience and leadership.

The first day after she arrived, she was exercised with Molly and my son for 4½ hours on Cannock Chase, running free, recall training, heel training on lead and harness. She must have pulled her previous owners all over the place? This heel training showed the dominance of Lulu wanting to be out in front of the pack. She learned quickly that she was no longer in charge and dictating the way. We also saw her antics with the cross-country cyclists and we applied strong handling with commands that made an impression on her, She was in sit & stay position, between our legs to restrict her spinning around, and ordered to leave with lead tugs. This method began to work.

Continued next page.....



Doggie of the Year 2010

We applied this sit/stay/clamp position at the busy roadsides because of her manic reactions to all passing traffic, giving her praise and body encouragements. This was started at 10ft distance from the kerbside and then gradually moving her at foot distances nearer to the kerb until we reached the kerb itself. This was done every day for ½ to 2 hour sessions in different locations with Molly's help as a trainer, which after 13 days showed her fear of traffic was no more. No more spinning, no more aggressive attacks.....WELL DONE LULU !!!

During her daily exercise we have carried out heel on and off lead training, sit/stay/down and the rest of it. She is good. In addition, she retrieves ball and hidden game dummies. Her recall training by her foster carer's has been a real benefit and we are now including hand and whistle recall. Starting shortly we will take her out at night to see if she has any reaction to traffic, speed or movement of headlights in the dark.

She does not chase deer or livestock but is still very wary of horses. It appears that she no longer has problems with joggers or cyclists. However, we are still to be convinced. This is being watched carefully as she double looks as they pass by — but other dogs?, she still has slight issues. We will work on those negative points. She will continue to use a muzzle.

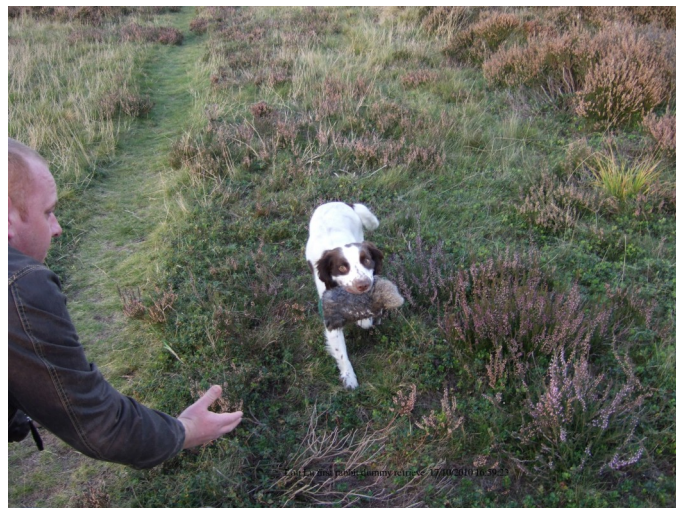
Overall, Lulu has improved dramatically in condition, situation and training to overcome some behavioural issues. We are aware that she may transgress from time to time but she has achieved such a lot in a short space of 46 days.

Lulu has now become a part of our family, and she has let us into her life too, we are all very happy for her. What a cracking bitch! She loves her training and freedom. Lulu is only a small type of Springer Spaniel, but what she lacks in size, she is overloaded with sprit and boundless energies. That's what we love, she always tries to please, she is becoming a good flush and retrieve worker. We have no regrets in taking her on. The transfer fee has now gone up to £8m and it will be rejected.

Smile.....When I am out and the telephone rings for me, they are told that I am out with my 'new tart' Lulu. The telephone has a deathly silence until given explanations. HA!

To Glyn and Wendy.....a sincere thank you!!!

From David and Pat Small.



Doggie of the Year - Past Winners



STANLEY & MICHELL
CHRISTMAS 1999



FRANKIE
SUMMER 2000



BEN
CHRISTMAS 2000



JAKEY
SUMMER 2001



ZAK
CHRISTMAS 2001



ANGUS
SUMMER 2002



TRAVIS
CHRISTMAS 2002



BAGGINS
SUMMER 2003



ROSIE
CHRISTMAS 2003



RAFFLES
CHRISTMAS 2004



JACK
CHRISTMAS 2005



BEN
CHRISTMAS 2005



STANLEY CHRISTMAS 2006



WILLOW
CHRISTMAS 2006



JAMIE CHRISTMAS 2007



PRINNY
CHRISTMAS 2008



MUFFIN
CHRISTMAS 2009



Dedications & Poems

I'll Remember

I'll remember you with laughter
I'll remember you with tears
I'll remember you with gratitude
For all those happy years

Dedicated To:

Bayley Schwaben

Purdie Morrison

Charley Hull

Hugo Wheeler

Dill Lloyd

Brucie Parkinson

Timber Lynch-Cowdrey (Trustee)

Tess Leahy

Millie Ratcliffe

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

If tears could build a stairway
And memories build a lane
We would walk right up to heaven
And bring you home again

Dedications & Poems

Perfect Spot

I have a place in our home, as warm and snug as can be
Where I warm my bones after a long walk in secure tranquillity
My special place is just the thing for a spaniel of my years
A contented snore is the sound that my Mum often hears

Every Spaniel should have a place to call their very own
To return to safe and warm whenever they happen to roam
So I say a big thank you on behalf of all my fellow Springer's
To you Glyn and Wendy, who this contentment you helped to bring us

Eight Legs, Two Tails

Barney, Tag — Eight legs, two tails
Twitching noses never fails
Pheasant scent, heaven sent
On chasing “stuff”, our leisure's spent

Across green fields, pleasure waits
Under hedges, over gates
Miss the tree, jump the ford
Two minds work of one accord

As on we charge, we vaguely hear
A distant shout with half an ear
Too strong the call of those to chase
We can't quit yet, return to base

Far off sounds, the faintest whistle
Thwarted now by patchy thistle
Decision time — Do we obey?
Our master calling, far away

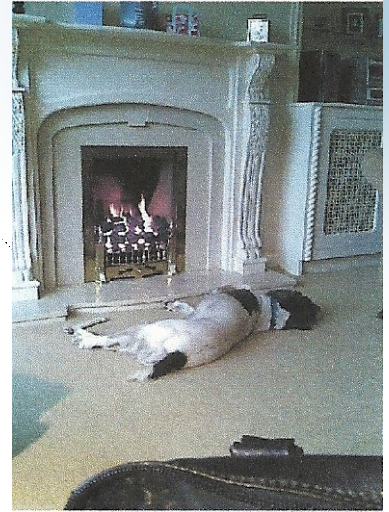
Something twitches, great expectation
Surely rabbit? Pure exaltation
All thoughts of home are cast away
Just give up bunny.....”make our day”

Nose joins in, we must pursue
Please give us a glimpse, a sniff will do
We know this is a waste of time
But oh! The chase, it's so sublime

The day is gone; we're watered and fed
It's dark outside, and so to bed
As daybreak dawns, and dreams are done
Eight legs, two tails; will work as one

If I Should Leave Tomorrow

If I should leave tomorrow
It would never be goodbye
For I have left my heart with you
So don't you ever cry
The love that's deep within me
Shall reach you from the stars
You'll feel it from the heavens
And it will help to heal the scars





A Dog's Purpose?

(From a 6 Year old)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a 10 year old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found that he was dying of cancer. I told the family that we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog at their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for 6 year old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why". Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try to live.

He said, *"People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life — like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?"*

The 6 year old continued, *"Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."*

Live simply
Love generously
Care deeply
Speak kindly

Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- Take naps.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop and lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

Continued next page.....

A Dog's Purpose?



- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!!!!!!!!!!





Happy Harry



Distinguished



Dripping



Disgusting!!!!

Our Bayley



Dear Glyn,

On December 13th 2007, we drove up to Wigan to collect a dog you described as large and very handsome, good on and off the lead. Unfortunately as we got in a traffic jam you had to wait about for us on a drab, cold, miserable day. But Glyn, I can tell you it was all worthwhile.

When you opened the tailgate of your car, out leapt this big gorgeous Springer, after a quick pee, he came to us to say hello. We took him in the rear seats of our car and he lay with his head on Norma's lap, so contented, all the way back to Gloucestershire. That was it, he settled in straight away and remained a loyal and loving friend from thereon.

Sadly, last Fri (15th) after a long illness our beloved Bayley was put to sleep. But in the two years and a bit that we had him, he gave us so much love and affection, that we are extremely grateful to you for letting us have him. You wont remember now, but he came from a soldier in Germany and he had never had a toy and was trained not to bark, he was apparently left on his own a lot, which was why the chap wanted Bayley re-homed.

Naturally, as it was near Christmas, our family bought him all sorts of presents and toys, but he never took to him, he would never pick up a ball and only if a dog went for him would he bark, then afterwards he would look nervous and apologetic. But what he lacked in games and fun, he more than made up for with his affection for the company of other dogs and people. He had the most marvellous friendly nature, without being boisterous, so he was great with children big or small.

Everyone round here loved Bayley. He was taken for walks at least three times everyday where he made his many friends both canine and human. We took him away on holiday three times which he thoroughly enjoyed, as he liked car travel. In fact he would jump in any car if anyone was silly enough to leave their door open.

At the end of August we thought he was a bit quieter and less energetic than usual, and had bad breath, so we took him to our local vet. He suggested a blood test. Later that evening, the vet phoned to tell us that Bayley had severe kidney failure and only had two weeks to live, in fact he said, he only knew of one other dog with such readings and was still alive. As you can imagine we were both horrified and amazed, we just could not believe it. In fact a month later we had the blood test redone as we were sure the vet had made a mistake. Bayley was only seven years old and should have been in his prime. Unfortunately, the result was the same.

We bought all sorts of special foods and vitamins and Bayley was fine up until Christmas. It was then that he became difficult to feed, as he would go off any food that he had got used to. Eventually of course he refused all food and on Friday we had to make the most awful of decisions.

During this time the vet saw Bayley three times, because neither he nor us wanted Bayley to suffer at all. He told us that he didn't know how Bayley lasted so long and thought it could only be down to the love and care we gave him. Which he thoroughly deserved !!

Thank you so much for enabling us to have two wonderful years with this beautiful dog.

Yours sincerely,

George and Norma Schwaben

Springer Tail's

Hiya!

I'm sorry I haven't been in touch, but we have all been very busy.

My mum and dad have been moving house, and we now live in Newton-le-Willows.....and I love it!! I am still a nervous little girl, when I am out, but I have a pal called Max (a golden lab) and we play and go for walks together, my mum says I'm a good girl as I always come back when called.

We have been on holiday to North Yorkshire and had lots of good long walks, and we are all going to Northumberland in November for my mums birthday. I have been to the seaside, to a place called Hoylake.....what a hoot.....sand is funny stuff isn't it?

I am getting something called a pet passport, and mum and dad tell me that we are off to Spain next year, I hope that I will enjoy it. The vet told my dad that I am looking good (as I have muscles now).....I think I look good too.

I knew quite a lot of commands before, but now I know even more, "dinnerdonnydingdongs" means feeding time, "ridypied" means that we are going in the car.....and "bedtime" is bedtime. My mum and dad tell me they love me everyday and I give them lots of licks and like to snuggle up on the sofa with them, they say I look like Hector from Hectors House, but I've no idea what they are talking about.

Life is good.

From Lucy Griffiths

Hello Glyn and Wendy,

Tom here, in North Yorkshire.



I saw in the newsletter that you wanted us to write in and I haven't written for a while so I thought I should put paw to paper.

Actually, I was going to contact you earlier in the year to ask for your medical advice. Mum said I had a bad case of Spring fever again – the word "bonkers" was used at one point! Apparently I had it last year as well. I thought it might be something you have to go and see the vet about but, fortunately, it wore off. They are OK at the vet's but no sooner have you gone through the door than they want to look at your teeth and rummage around in your ears and suchlike. Only the second time I went there I came back with some bits missing. I'm still not sure what happened – I think I must have dozed off. When I woke up Mum was there to bring me home; she seemed quite relaxed about it all, though she did have a fit of coughing and spluttering just as we were leaving. It was just after the vet said I had to be kept quiet for 10 days and could only go out on the lead and mustn't jump in the beck and chase the ducks. Mum said 10 days of that sounded like a life sentence....whatever that means. Dogs are not allowed in the beck during the Spring anyway, until the ducklings can fly, though I did make a break for it this year, in June, and brought them back a duck egg – not as well received as I thought it would be though.

We went to Norfolk on holiday in April and stayed right by the sea. We only had to go out through the garden gate and down a few steps to the beach. I didn't bother with the steps! We've also been up to Hadrian's Wall. We walked several stretches of the Hadrian's Wall footpath and there were plenty of rabbits.

I still help around the house by bringing laundry downstairs and I still rearrange the cushions every day. When anyone in the family has been out I meet them at the door with a cushion. To be honest, I wish I'd never started doing it – it's a bit of a chore now – but they all expect it now so what can you do?

I have been here three years now (I am 3¾). I have landed on my feet, I think, but mum says my family are lucky to have me. So thanks from us all to everyone at Springer Spaniel Rescue.

Love Tom xxxx

Springer Tail's



Hello,

Oliver here, though I prefer to answer to Ollie (it helps my image, much more cool!). I have to be the boss, now that I have a youngster to keep in his place. Half my age he is, and sooo much energy! I had to teach him a thing or two at the beginning, but he understands now – and gives me respect (Only natural isn't it?). He's not a bad sort really, well not now that I have got used to him....I just wish he'd settle down a bit as I cant be doing with all that bounding around sometimes. I like to chill out now and then....not as young as I was when you saw me last, not that I have let myself go or anything, soon got my weight off after moving here...diet and exercise just like humans do...and I've kept it off. I fact I'm quite trim now. Its a pity Sally wasn't here to appreciate it, I missed her a lot after she'd gone...still think about her now....she was good company, we made a lovely pair...and we got along well.

Now I've got Mr Lively Legs to share my pad with. Alfie his name is. He's got his own bed, but he sometimes thinks mine's more comfy.....so I've got to use his – anything for quiet life! Well I am over 10 now so I cant keep up the same...no health problems but get weary sooner. I look forward to my little naps during the day. After all, I've got to keep half alert during the night...got to look after those humans you found me. It's in my best interests...well our best interests then....but Alfie doesn't do much, leave it all to me (and that's what I'm good at). He'll learn one day, I hope so, cos he will be taking over.

We do get benefits such as nice walks through the quarry and into the woods for one of them. I chased a fox the other day! I didn't catch him but it was exciting. I sure surprised Mr Lively Legs! He didn't think that I could do it....mind you, neither did I. I surprise myself sometimes. I didn't let on though, as I said before...I've got an image to keep up!

I've sent some photos with this letter to you so you can see how well we're doing and will be in touch sometime soon to give you more of my reflections. But for now.....hwym...well I feel ready for one of my naps....all this thinking has sort of worn me out. Hope everyone there is alright....thought I'd better ask (only polite)...I always did have manners!.

Goodnite.

Love Ollie (oh and Alfie) xxxx

Dear Glyn & Wendy,

In response to your newsletter stating you were a bit “miffed” at the lack of letters, I have taken up the challenge with this little note.

Bob and Sam (Henry) are both 8 years old now (to be precise Bob will be 8 in August), how time has flown and my house continues to stand despite the destruction they imposed in their first few months. We really should have known what we were letting ourselves in for when (on arriving at the kennels to collect our two youngsters) we witnessed Glyn standing like a may-pole with two leads wrapped around his legs up to his knees and Bob/Sam dancing merrily round and round like unruly children!.

As the months progressed and our home became less and less habitable, as most of the wooden structure (i.e. door frames and skirting boards) were gnawed away, we became aware that these two were going to be a challenge to beat all challenges. Going out for walks was no easy feat, Bob (who despite being a Springer is not confident in the water!) forgot that the River Derwent runs alongside our daily walk, and ran headlong into it. Due to the steepness of the riverbank, he was unable to get out and so had to be rescued by Steve by attaching his lead round a tree to abseil down the bank. Sam also lost one of his nine lives when he decided he didn't want to stop swinging on a rope and in his attempt to prevent having his lead put back on twirled round and round like a devilish until Steve's thumbs and fore finger were stuck tight in his collar, and Sam became to choke! After we eventually managed to undo the buckle we made the wise choice to purchase the easy release collars for them both and to be doubly sure, we purchased a small penknife each!

These events occurred long ago but anyone who has ever loved a Springer does so despite all their naughtiness....after all, if we'd wanted a quiet life we'd have brought home a hamster!

All the best to you all!!

Andrea & Steve Horner, Bob and Sam xxxx



Springer Tail's

Hello All,

At long last I have bagged my turn on this laptop! We're just back from Cornwall and I bet the local wildlife were glad to see me go. But it was fun, chasing all those rabbits, squirrels and pheasants. The squirrels that come into my garden had an easy couple of weeks while I was away, so I've been busy showing them who's really the boss around here.

I expect all you other Springer's will have noticed that humans have a very peculiar habit of producing a nasty roaring machine that they use to clean the carpets. Well, if you take my advise, you'll keep well clear of them!. I've always given ours a token bite on the tube bit, to try to tell it to be quiet. However, I was having a snooze downstairs and Sheila was using this noisy thing upstairs, so I decided to go and ask her why she was wasting time on this silly machine when she could be playing with me. I sat down behind Sheila, with my best Springer 'come-and-play-with-me' smile, and was just about to tap on her leg, when she took the brush bit off and swung the tube bit up to the ceiling (do they have carpets on the ceiling as well?).

Unfortunately, very unfortunately, the tube bit got suck in one of my ears! Shock horror! Sheila was desperately trying to turn the horrible machine off, but I didn't hang around. Oh no!....I shot backwards at about 90 mph. I know I'm a bit of a sprinter going forwards, but I didn't realise my reverse gear worked so well. Anyway, no damage done, but lots of extra treats and fuss and cuddles.

However one good thing did come out of this. When the lovely lady from the Pooch-mobile come around to give me my shampoo and blow-dry....yuk! - I am excused having my ears dried with the hair-dryer. I dry them on the carpet instead.....result!!

Now I'm off to sort out those pesky squirrels.

Lots of licks and woofles from Jake xxxxx

Dear Wendy, Glyn & other Springer lovers

It is now over 8 years since the cold January morning when I left you to live with my new family in Hounslow and I celebrated my 12th birthday last week.

I still enjoy going out over the local field, Cranford Park, Osterley Park and Hounslow Heath but I am slowing down a little now and often take short-cuts, leaving the humans to do the full walkies route. I can still move quickly when I have to though, especially if next doors cat trespasses into my garden or when I go in the river over the park and swim after the ducks.

Les had to rescue me recently when I decided to go for a swim in a really boggy river on Hounslow Heath. I got down to the river OK but didn't realise how steep the bank was when I tried to get out (my poor arthritic back legs don't help!). Les had to slide down the bank, put my lead on and struggle to get back up with me in tow.

Because Les changed his working hours, Hilary takes me out most mornings and always takes a pocket full of doggy treats with her. The treats are usually shared with my "girlfriend", Poppy, who is a Patterdale Terrier and she runs rings around me. I see Poppy in the field most days but find it difficult to keep up with her nowadays. Mind you....the humans can be a bit slow at times and I have to let them know when I want something 'right now'. I do a great little dance in front of the telly and then I do 'silent woofs'. This usually makes them laugh but I normally get what I want. I am keeping this letter short, in the hope that it will make it into the newsletter. I have also included some photos of me in my summer coat, my 'scruffy' winter coat and just chillin at home.

Love to all,

Barney xxxxx

Springer Tail's

Hi All,

Gunner Bromley here.....

4 years on and I am still here in outer Bacup. Life is pretty peachy, I sleep all day and all night with not a care in the world.

My joints are a bit stiff and arthritic now but life is still giving me a challenge or two.

My girlfriend April is still with me and at 14 she doesn't look bad either. She is my ears these days though, I still hear a food wrapper now and again, but most of the time I am quite happy with the sign language my mum and dad have taught me.

Mum works at her desk and we have a settee each to lie on while she finishes and then wander off up to the stables and a quick check around the garden making sure that everything is where we left it. Then we put the chickens to bed and off we go on our walk over the fields, before tea and a few hours in front of the TV before going to bed.....What more could a dog want!!!

This weather is playing havoc with my temperature control though and mum has given me a short back and sides (not much off top though as I like to keep my mane for that appealing hairstyle).

Keeping the kids in order. The balls they keep bringing up with them are getting faster these days, but when I do get hold of them, I don't give them back too soon – well they did bring them up for me didn't they?.

Well I'm off to do my duties now – the kids have got to be woken up for school and I know just how to do it. How can they resist the temptation to stroke me and have a good wash, it might be the only one they get.....

Ta ta for now, be in touch soon.

Gunner from sunny Bacup xxxx

Hi Glyn and Wendy,

Molly here, or as mum and dad call me (Cocky Little Sod), I haven't wrote to you for a while as my dads now retired and we seem to spend most weekends away in our motorhome. At the seaside I love charging along the beach with mum and dad, knocking over freshly made sandcastles, and chasing children's beach balls.....oh yes I forgot to tell you, I didn't like children much, but now I have decided there not really too bad really (because on the beach and when we go to 'pets at home' they all want to stroke and pet me).

I like to help my mum at home in our garden as I dig big holes all over the lawn so she can plant flowers, but she gets mad at me because she wants holes in the soil. I have been watching the world cup with my dad, but its getting a little annoying, just as I get settled he keeps jumping up screaming "It's a goal!", or swearing at the telly.

I will have to go now as mum and dad are packing clothes and some of my stuff in the motorhome.....looks like we're off for the weekend. So love to you all at Springer Spaniel Rescue, and I hope all your other doggies are as happy as me.

Lots of love to you all

Molly (Cocky Little Sod) Whitehead xxxxxxxxxxxxxx





Springer Tail's

Hi to all the team at Springer Rescue,

Hope you remember me? - Murray from Leyton Buzzard, I have attached a photograph of myself, as you can see I have already been in for a dip, it's my favourite walking spot, only a two minute walk from my new home in Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire.

Sorry it has taken me so long to get in touch but things have been very busy with my new family, they insist (I am only here to please) on taking me on long walks and picnics!!! Since I was adopted I have gained a little weight (the vet says I am very healthy), I have learnt to swim – I have been practising every day. I go jogging three times a week with my dad, although he is a little slow and I have to wait for him to catch up. I have had my first haircut at the doggy parlour – my mum says I look a 'Bobby Dazzler' and I have passed my puppy and bronze award (though sitting still for 1 minute was a big challenge, I couldn't see the point!).

Although I have been in my new home for only five minutes my new mum and dad keep saying that I have my paws well and truly under the table – whatever that means. I not only have my own room, but also free run of the house, especially when James and Laura's room whose beds are really really comfy!!

I have a rather good social life with many new friends - especially my friend Charlie the Jack Russell.

Sorry its only a brief message but I have a rather nice butchers bone waiting for me of which I really enjoy, this is my consolation for not chewing socks, slippers and shoes!!

Chat to you soon,

Murray Bellamy xx

PS – Thank you for taking care of me whilst I was waiting for my new home and family.



Springer Tail's



Hello Glyn, Wendy & all my friends at Springer Rescue. Its me – Rosie !!

I hope you are all in the very best of health, I can hardly believe its been such a long time since I have seen you all.

Another birthday goes by without Sharon organising a party for me (she says that she does think about parties, but never gets around to organising one). I hope you like the photo of yours truly, I'm sat in my dingy, (that's what everyone calls it). The squidgy basket was supposed to be for little Meg, but I much prefer it. I can just about squeeze myself into it, but sometimes when I flop out of it I look like my 'dingy' is about to capsize, it causes much hilarity for everyone!

The second photo is of me and Leanne, oh, I do love hugs and kisses and sofas (nearly as much as I love food) and can always be relied upon to keep someone's spot warm for them.

Righty-ho.....on with the news:

We have now got hens, lots of hens!! It started in the Spring with just four youngsters, then next came the 'ex-batteries', then came the hatchlings and the 'chicklins'. I do love the 'chicklins' they are soft and cute and run about chirping, I wish I had the nerve to snuggle up to one, but their mums keep flapping their wings and scaring me off. Honestly, all I want to do is look after them and to be their mummy, maybe take them back to nestle in my 'dingy' !

The 'ex-bats' are a right rabble, they are like street urchins, they hang around in gangs waiting to chase me away from their grub. They don't bother so much with Jessie (between you, me and the gatepost, I think it is cause she is too thick to notice). But Sharon is very keen on the hens 'cause they lay eggs for her puddings' that she sells under 'Ma Bean'.....so, good folk, if you see her puddings you know that Rosie and I have been on guard making sure Mr Fox doesn't eat our feathered friends.

But, the best news is.....drum roll please.....Rosie and I are actually writing a book!! Oh yes I am! Its the tales of me, Jess and Meg. Sharon is supposed to be illustrating it, but between you and me, if she's anything like organising her birthday parties, the book will never have pictures.

Anyway, I have got to sign off now 'cause the sun is setting and I have to lock up the hens. Cheerio for now, and lots of hugs, squishy kisses and wet noses to you all.

Love you loads, Rosie.

Ps. Sharon has enclosed a little something to help you keep up the good work.

Hello Auntie Barbara,

Surprise, surprise a year (7 in my world!) has passed since we met and parted. Me to go to Yorkshire and you to stay in Rochdale. So much has happened since then. My new mum and dad do as they are told and look after me as if I am Royalty (rightly so I think), I've so many doggie friends in the village, and the humans say what a handsome chap I am. They were a bit worried about us dogs as Ellie is not too good with other dogs, but I'm not like "other dogs" and woo'd her with my personality. I think I'm in love Auntie Barbara.....what shall I do?

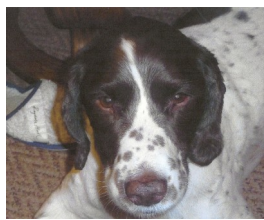
We have lovely woods and parks around here, and I love chasing squirrels, rabbits and pheasants.....great fun! I'm not scared of other dogs or people anymore, and dad says I'm very good on the roads. I always stop till he tells me to cross. I'll close now and write again when dad can tear himself away from his crosswords.

Lots of love and wags
Barney Pitwell xxxx

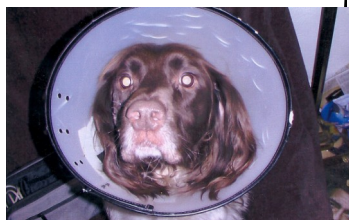
Gallery



BARNEY



DOMMY



MERRY



BERTIE



CHARLIE



JACK & MOLLY



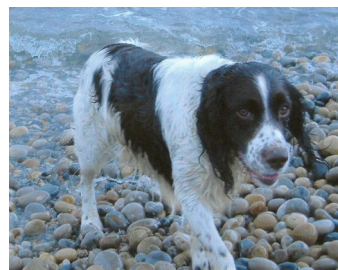
MONTY



MACK



BUZZ & WOODY



OLLIE



NINA & BRACKEN



GEORGE



MONTY



TOM



MAX