

SPRINGER SPANIEL RESCUE

Hello and welcome to our summer newsletter 2011.

We hope all our readers are happy and well, and a special hello to all our 4 legged friends, who, hopefully, are having much fun and having the time of their lives!!!!

Since our last update, we have been very busy, fortunately, rehoming many doggies fairly quickly, not having many in kennels but instead being fostered by our terrific foster carers.....Thank you so much to all concerned.....

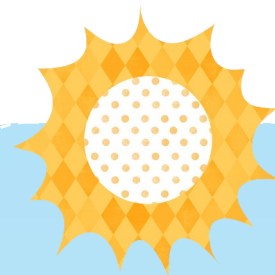
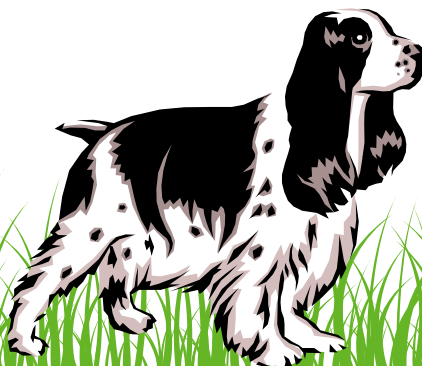
Thank you so much for all the kind and generous donations received throughout the year, the letters, emails and super piccies. As always I am limited to space in the newsletter, so if your letter or picture is not featured, please don't be disappointed as it will appear in a future edition.

We have been toying with the idea of only sending out (by post) one newsletter per year. As you know, all newsletters can be downloaded from our website, so we thought of sending the summer newsletters out by post (will also feature on our website), with the Christmas newsletter just appearing straight on the website. This will of course saving on printing and postage costs. Please let us know your thoughts, we do appreciate that not everyone has internet access (please let us know if this is the case).

Please find enclosed, tickets for our summer raffle draw (5 for £1.00), which will take place at the end of September. Please ensure to write your name and telephone number on the stub and return to ourselves. There are many super prizes, and once again our 1st prize has been donated by Fay Ewins (www.trigonsys.eclipse.co.uk) who gives her time and materials to paint the most amazing portrait of your doggie. A very talented lady and we thank you Fay for your kindness.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for their continuous support. Hope you enjoy your newsletter, and we hope you have a wonderful summer.

From all the team at Springer Spaniel Rescue.



Summer Newsletter 2011

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5 Foods that are harmful to your dog

You know that I'm a big believer in nutrition as one of the keys to having your dog live a healthy long life. Not just a long life, but one full of energy and vitality.

Just as important as what you feed your dog are the things you should **NOT** feed your dog.

Following is a list of 5 foods that you should **NOT** feed your dog: -

Alcoholic Beverages. Ethanol is the component in alcoholic beverages that can be toxic when an excessive amount is ingested. Pets are much smaller than us and can be highly affected by small amounts of alcohol. Exercise caution when drinks and pets are together. Toxicity can cause a wide variety of signs and symptoms, and may result in death. Signs may include odour of alcohol on the animals breath, staggering, behavioural changes, excitement, depression, increased urination, slowed respiratory rate or cardiac arrest and death.

Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Peaches and Plums. Ingestion of large amount of stems, seeds and leaves of these fruits can be toxic. They contain a cyanide type compound and signs of toxicity include apprehension, dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, hyperventilation and shock.

Avocados. The leaves, fruit, bark and seeds of avocados have all been reported to be toxic. The toxic component in the avocado is "persin" which is a fatty acid derivative. Symptoms of toxicity include difficulty breathing, abdominal enlargement and abnormal fluid accumulations in the chest, abdomen and sac around the heart. The amount that needs to be ingested to cause symptoms is unknown. Do not feed your pet any component of the avocado.

Baking Powder and Baking Soda. Baking soda and baking powder are both leavening agents. A leavening agent is a common ingredient in baked goods that produces a gas causing batter and dough to rise. Baking soda is simply sodium bicarbonate. Baking powder consists of baking soda and an acid, usually cream of tartar, calcium acid phosphate, sodium aluminium sulphate or a mixture of the three. Ingestion of large amounts of baking soda or baking powder can lead to electrolyte abnormalities (low potassium, low calcium and/or high sodium), congestive heart failure or muscle spasms.

Chocolate. Chocolate, in addition to having a high fat content, contains caffeine and theobromine. These two compounds are nervous system stimulants and can be toxic to your dog in high amounts. The levels of caffeine and theobromine vary between different types of chocolate. For example, white chocolate has the lowest concentration of stimulants and baking chocolate or cacao beans have the highest concentration. Depending on the type of chocolate ingested and the amount eaten various problems can occur.



3 Symptoms That Are a REAL EMERGENCY

This is a real combination of symptoms that spells out EMERGENCY. These are the classic symptoms of a condition referred to as “bloat” – an extremely dangerous condition. If you notice these 3 combined symptoms in your dog, seek treatment immediately: -

1. Pacing.
2. Restlessness.
3. Unproductive Attempts To Vomit.

Bloat is a common problem in large breed deep chested dogs but can also occur in smaller dogs.

Basically what happens is this. The stomach twists causing the blood supply to the stomach to be compromised, which leads to tissue death. As tissues are damaged, toxins are released and a sequence of events occurs, that, if left untreated, leads to death.

If you ever notice these symptoms in your dog, call your local veterinarian or emergency clinic as soon as possible.



How to recognise Alzheimer's Disease in Dogs

Dogs don't really get Alzheimer's disease like humans do, but canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD) is often called Doggie Alzheimer's. Senility affects dogs in many of the same ways as it affects humans. Dogs start losing their sight and hearing. They get sore and arthritic and like to sleep a lot. They can also start losing some mental functioning. If you notice your senior dog acting confused or forgetting his training, don't assume he is being disobedient – he may have doggie Alzheimer's, and there are effective medications to make him more alert.

INSTRUCTIONS

Take your senior dog to the vet for regular check ups. Your vet may recognise signs of “Alzheimer's” disease in your dog that you've missed.

Ask for urinalysis to rule out a bladder infection if you notice your dog getting incontinent – if he is healthy, then forgetting his house training may be a sign of cognitive dysfunction.

Recognise that dogs with cognitive dysfunction can walk into a wall and “forget” how to turn around, or may seem to forget where the doors in the house are. Confusion and getting lost in familiar surroundings is a symptom of CCD.

Realise that changes in sleeping patterns, such as being awake all night, or sleeping all day are common signs of CCD.

Understand that if your senior dog sometimes doesn't seem to recognise you, your family or familiar friends, he is displaying a symptom of CCD. Related symptoms are walking away while being petted, not get up to greet you, or failing to respond to his name or simple commands.

Recognise that CCD can make some old dogs irritable, less patient and more likely to growl or snap if they are bothered.

Talk to your veterinarian about medications that can help with symptoms of canine cognitive dysfunction. There are prescription drugs that can improve your dogs alertness and quality of life, and even make him remember his house training again.



SCHOOL REPORT: WHISKEY BURT**General:**

Despite one or two initial issues, Whiskey has made an excellent start at Burt Towers. He has quickly settled into the routine and has made good progress in all areas.

Geography:

Whiskey has quickly worked out where he lives and where he goes for his regular walk. Despite an early excursion into the dunk pond where Whiskey ended up looking like he had been dipped in chocolate and a duck lost its tail feathers, subsequent ventures from Burt Towers have been more successful.

Social Skills:

Whiskey has gradually made friends with Bramble and Fruity, although if he desisted from eating their food he might improve relations. Otherwise he has proved extremely popular with all members of Burt Towers and indeed visitors to the school. When asked, Whiskey will extend his paw – although this appears to be only if a biscuit is made available. Whiskey has only growled once whilst at Burt Towers, prompted by a confusing encounter with a miniature donkey. No harm done and both parties now give each other a wide berth.

Physical Education:

Whiskey has benefited from regular exercise and a varied diet. He has lost a few pounds and with regular visits to the beautician he has turned into a very handsome lad.

General Knowledge:

Whiskey could do with working on his memory skills. He has a propensity to misplace items such as boots, shoes and toys. He needs to concentrate on remembering where he puts things in the garden in order that he can retrieve them later. In particular, the loss of one of the headmaster's favourite work boots resulted in detention.

Maths:

Whiskey needs to learn that boots and shoes come in pairs and the loss of one item can cause discomfort to other members of the school. One plus one does indeed equal two.

Science:

Whiskey likes to undertake various tests on substances and he has learnt that plastic does not taste good, particularly when shaped in the form of a cat flap. He also has experimented with eating wood; again he ascertained that doors were not for eating. Whilst we like to encourage an investigative and adventurous nature, we are mindful that his exuberance can have destructive results.

Whiskey has had some remedial coaching in the lab and we are pleased to report that he is now top of the class.

Extracurricular Activities:

Whiskey is extremely competent at sleeping, following people around like a shadow and generally looking adorable. He also likes to make himself busy with hedges, trees and generally anything that can be sniffed and/or worried.

Awards:

Whiskey has been accepted at the special dogs holiday club which is by invitation only and where not only Whiskey had to pass a test, but his mistress was also vetted to assess suitability. I am pleased to say both parties were rewarded with the promise of return visits.

Overall:

Whiskey has proved a very popular addition to Burt Towers and has endeared himself to all humans; although further work is required with felines. It is difficult to imagine Burt Towers without Whiskey and we feel really lucky to have him.

OUR FIRST YEAR WITH HARRY

Our quest for a replacement

A year after adopting Harry – or was it the other way round – I thought we'd write a note for the newsletter about our first year with our first rescue spaniel.

Having lost our beloved Molly, a Welshie that we had for thirteen years since she was a puppy, we decided our next dog would be a rescue and we would go for an English Springer Spaniel this time. Not realising just how long it would take, we register firstly with ESS Rescue, but our mistake was to limit our selection to a female up to 2 years old.

We soon realised that this is what everyone wants and also the number of dogs in rescue far outnumber bitches. Still, we persevered and subsequently registered with four rescue organisations broadening our criteria to males also and agreeing to accept older dogs.

The call

Nearly six months after first registering we got the call one Saturday evening from Glyn saying they expected a 2 year old boy to come into the rescue the following day – were we interested? Yes, of course we were, although having always had females I'll admit to a bit of trepidation about a male, particularly aged 2 and no doubt full of spaniel antics. Looking at the delightful boy sitting beside me today those fears proved groundless.

We set off on Sunday afternoon to Barbara's to meet Vince. He was a quiet lad, a bit tatty and totally overwhelmed by Barbara's menagerie of lovely spaniel's. yes we'd love to have him, but the following day we had contractors booked to erect new fencing and felt it would all be too much for Vince along with all the other upheaval he was going through. So, we went back on Monday evening to collect him and he was by this time firmly established on the sofa having had a run and dip in the canal with Barbara's mob.

Harry arriving and his first few weeks

On the journey home and his first evening we were all a bit nervous around each other, however our anticipated sleepless night didn't happen and he spent it happily in his bed in the kitchen. We had already decided on a name change and felt that at just short of 2 years old he'd soon pick up a new name if we were consistent in using it when we spoken to him. Oh, didn't we underestimate him. He was answering to Harry within a few days. In those early weeks he was incredibly well behaved, a bit too quiet maybe – although as our first rescue we realise this is possibly a pattern of behaviour caused by the change in his life.

We are fortunate enough to live near some woodland with a river, fishing lakes and assorted dirty ponds. After a week or so on the lead Ken decided to let Harry have a quick run to test the recall and let him work off some of his energy. He 'works' like you've never seen a spaniel before and although there were a few mishaps he came back to a whistle from those early days. Harry's only sin was obvious very early on – he pulls like a jet engine. Lots of work by Ken has improved this enormously – all I can say it is a work in progress.

Continued Next Page

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His travels

Our main leisure activity is motor homing, travelling all around the country in our van at weekends and holidays. On Harry's first weekend we had already booked a site at the Wirral adjacent to miles of beaches. Should we go or should we spend more time settling him in at home? In view of the fact that the van is parked on our drive so he could get use to it and the fact that this is our life and he should fit into it, we ventured out with him six days after he arrived. Like everything else we needn't have worried. Harry took to it like the proverbial duck (chases them to). He seemed happy enough being tethered outside on the pitch at the site and when we left him alone in the van for a few minutes to see how he'd react he just lay down and waited patiently for us to return, no damage, no noise and no mess. What a good boy.

This gave us confidence for our 3 week holiday in Scotland with Harry and true to form he was a pleasure to have with us. He did prove very adventurous though and was even chased by a bird of prey on a beach near Thurso when he ventured too near the nest and was dive bombed by a flock of Turns at Dornoch for the same sin. Since all this Harry has spent many weekends away and is now a seasoned camper taking his rightful place on the drivers seat when on site. Resting his head on the steering wheel is a particularly endearing trait.

Health difficulties

Harry's passage to this point has not been without a few mishaps. There was the rash about a month after he arrived that was diagnosed as an allergy to grass that I felt was more like stress induced as a result of re-homing. Turns out I was probably right as, since a course of antibiotics, it hasn't returned. Then there was the ticks picked up probably in Culloden Forest that I removed with tweezers. Finally the biggest cause for concern, a tiny broken bone in his right paw probably as a result of running like a mad thing through woods/rivers etc. rest and anti inflammatory medicine did little to help, so it was an x-ray, referral to specialist orthopaedic vet and then an extended course of anti-inflammatories along with two months of no off lead – yes, even in the garden in December and January. We persevered, Harry coped as usual and is now back to running wild again. A huge relief to us all.

How he has progressed

So how has the quiet timid boy developed? Harry has become the most delightful companion, full time now since I stopped work last summer. He is sensitive, faithful and oh so well behaved. His confidence has grown considerably, he now follows us everywhere in true spaniel fashion, expects to leap into the human beds whenever the opportunity arises and has surprisingly shown very un-spaniel like territorial tendencies. A guard dog is an added bonus. Coming up to 12 months we can't imagine life without him and we're all looking forward to another summer camping.

One last point, when looking for our new friend I was steered away from a male as we hadn't had one before and was warned that they were another dimension of boisterousness. Harry has changed my mind completely. The main differences to a female is his strength and greediness, but to counter these he is the model of well behaved spaniel, very loving and loveable and we wouldn't part with him for the world.

Thank you so much to ESS Rescue for bring Harry into our lives.



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:

Major Muff-Cake Griffiths

Sammy Dudman

Ellie West

Leo Shone

Dusty Kessler

Megan mongan

Gilbert Tetley

Copper Windler

Jake Bull

Monty Payne

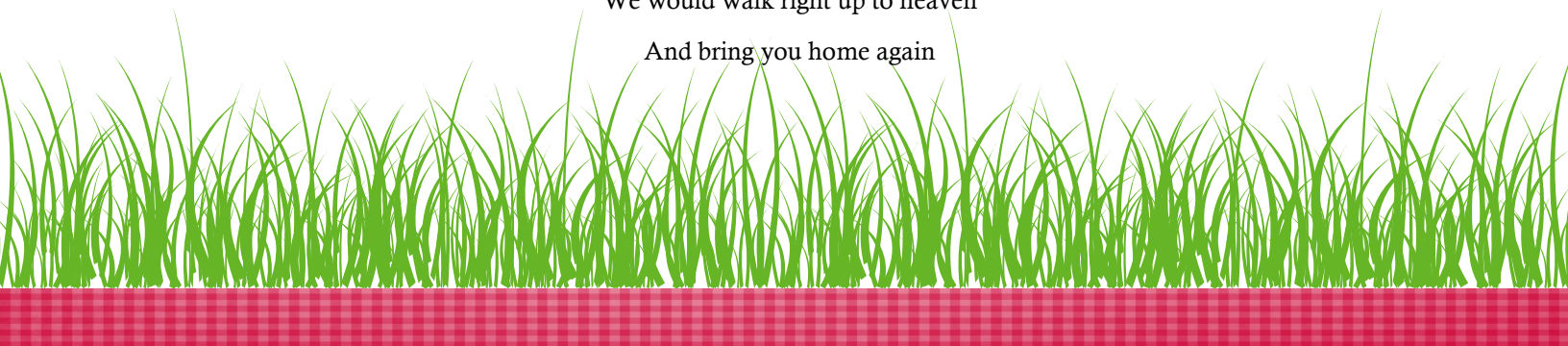
GOD BLESS YOU ALL

If tears could build a stairway

And memories build a lane

We would walk right up to heaven

And bring you home again



We Miss You (Seve)

Its now a year since you went to play over the rainbow bridge
so far away, we hope you are happy with your doggy friends
but for us the sorrow never ends.

We Miss You

We remember all of the happy times
of walks through the fields weather wet or fine
a swim in the river and then a roll in the grass
all of these things have now come to pass.

We Miss You

We think of you each morning when the sun is shining bright
and again in the evening when we see the stars alight
you are there in our memories, engraved in our brain
without you our Seve things just aren't the same.

We Miss You

We are glad that we had so many happy times together
but the fun and the frolics passed liked the wind with a feather
we look at your picture in its silver frame
and wish we could have all those years over again.

We Miss You



OUR JAKE

Jake was a very big part of both our life's a 24/7 type of dog and will be sadly missed. It wasn't until Jake died that we realised just how many people and dogs we knew through Jake.

As you know by all the photographs we have sent you just how well travelled he was. The Lake District, North Wales and lots of places in The Peak District. The last place we all went to was Ambleside (March this year) we've attached his last photo.

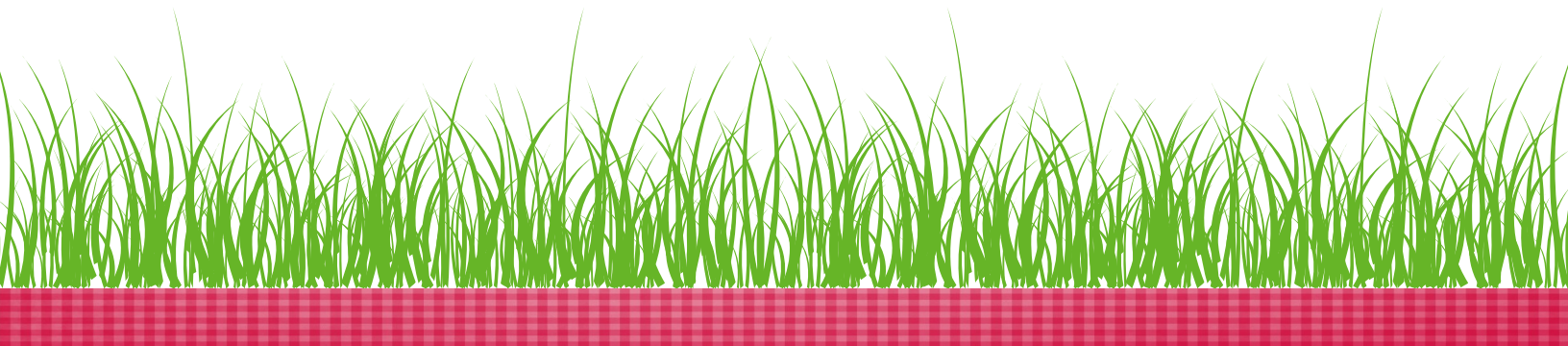
Both Barbara and I are very upset at the loss of Jake but we have written a dedication to him and have sent more photos for the folder we know you kept on him.

'How can we manage without our beautiful lad with his big brown eyes that knew everything before we did. You couldn't fool him whether somebody was coming to the house or we were going somewhere, he always knew. As soon as we got the rucksack out for a longer walk he was at the door waiting. How can we now go for walks when every path from our doorstep in all directions has been walked by Jake? Regardless of the weather, it didn't matter. Sunshine meant a quick dip in the river when it was hot, rain was for rolling in the mud and windy days were great for chasing leaves. All those days added up to happiness you can't imagine and with Jake he was just glad to be out with us, tail wagging head down. How can you put into words the great loss we both feel of losing such a live wire who had such a zest for life. Our lives have been completely changed with having Jake, we've made so many doggy friends and even people who don't have dogs all loved Jake. Even at the vets at the end, they said he was such a lovely chap who never grumbled. We feel cheated that Jake never got to grow old with us, he was still a baby just coming up to eight years old with more adventures to go on. In our minds eye we feel that when we do eventually do his favourite walks he'll still be there with us, doing everything a Springer should be doing, living life to the full.

That's as much as we are able to write about Jake at the moment, there's too many memories to try and put it to paper and we're still too stunned to think properly. Hope you enjoy the selection of many photos that we have of him. We cried and laughed and cried again at some of the capers he has been up to and there will be plenty more tears to come.

Thank you Glyn and Wendy for giving us the best 8 years we can remember – it's been a privilege. Carry on the great work and hopefully when the time is right we know where you are.

Barbara and Dave.



Springer Tail's

Dear Glyn & Wendy

Surprise, surprise! Thought I'd put paw to keyboard and springer 'nother letter on you and let you know the exciting new things I've been doing recently.

When my human last wrote to you a couple of years ago, she told you that I'd got Arthur Itus in my knee (although god knows who he is and how he got in there) and she's started me on clicker training to keep my busy in case I couldn't go for runs in the future. Couldn't go for runs – what tosh! Hey you guys, if you get chance to go clicker training, you snap it up with all paws! It's brilliant! Your human makes a click sound and gives you food every time and the best bit is that you can make her do it just by showing her something, like a sit or a down! Well, I took to it with a passion. Lots of yummy food treats. What's not to like!

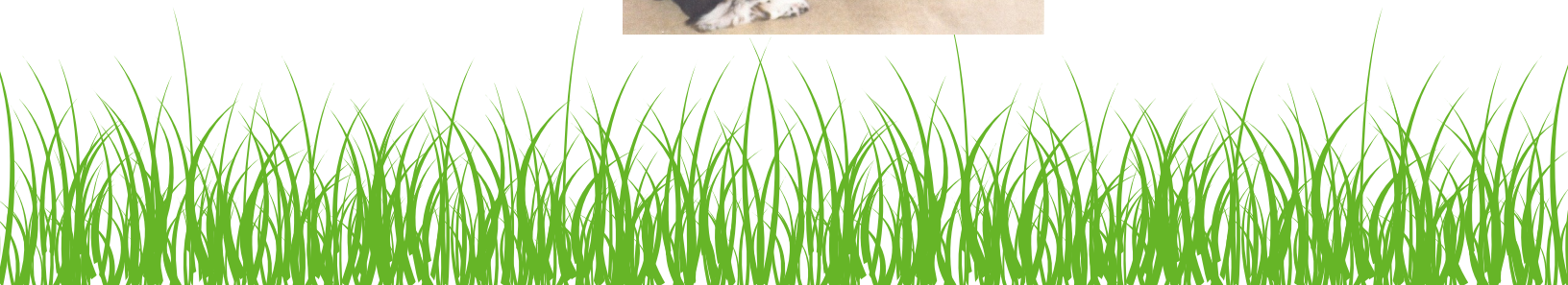
We went to the local dog training club and did our Kennel Club bronze pet obedience award. Then the silver and then the gold! Easy, peasy, springer squeezezy! When we finished that, my human said she was looking for something that would involve clicker training but would be easy on my knee (on account of Arthur), and lo and behold, that very week there was an advert at the club that someone was starting heelwork to music classes. Think Anton Du Beke. Think Ann Widdecombe. Guess which I am. Guess which my human is.

So a couple of weeks ago, my human took me off to something call a heelwork to music show. She took our music ("legs" by ZZ Top – very raunchy) and she dressed up as a biker in her leather jacket and biker boots. We did our bit in front of the judges and I tried to keep her in line but you know what she's like! Apparently, they were giving out rosettes to sixth place but my human said you couldn't eat rosettes, so I was pleased when I found out we came seventh, but pretty damn good for a first time, I thought.

And guess what you guys! Next March, we're going to somewhere called Crufts to be paid of a heelwork to music demo team. So I'm busy practicing weaving through my human's legs, waving paws at her (that's what I'm doing in my photo), reversing round her in a circle, walking backwards and putting my paws on her knee to give her a kiss. Look out for me if your there. I'm the one blowing raspberries at the border collies.

Not bad, seeing as I'm nine in January. Oh, and Arthur? Well, he's keeping quiet. I'm off the tablets (which is good as they made me sick). My human gives me some special yummy powder called glucosamine and I don't limp at all. Must go now, time for my foxtrot.

Love and kisses
Dobby xxxxxxxx



Hello from Poppy,

My new home is great and very comfy. There are plenty of toys to play with and I can run around at 90 miles and hour! The park is great fun with my new brother Ted. He is showing me around and introducing me to all his friends. Ted is looking after me, so I don't feel scared.

We have had a busy Saturday, we had a lovely walk in the country, then the hairdressers to get rid of all my matted hair, then to Gran and Granddads house/big garden, and then a walk at the park on the way home.

Woof to you soon

Love Poppy and Ted xxxxx



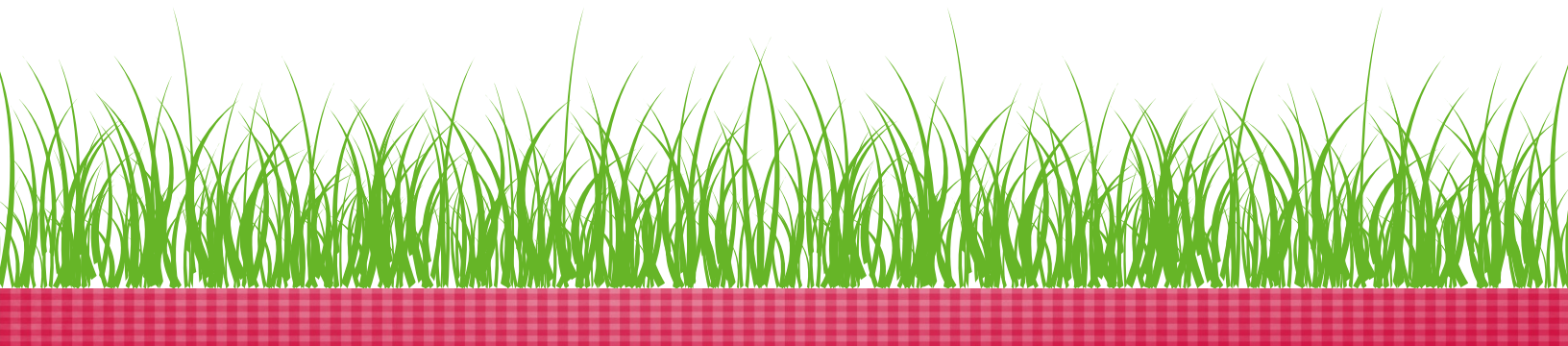
Dear Wendy & Glyn

I am writing to let you know how Monty is doing, he is 13 ½ years old now. He has been very poorly, he's had two strokes and has a liver problem, his back legs are very weak from the strokes, but he's a very brave little fellow. He still likes to go for a walk, a very slow walk, and falls over a few times, and picks himself up and carries on. All the other dogs on the park seem to know he's not well and leave him alone.

Its very sad to see him this way, but as he is not suffering I cant bear to be parted with him. I know its got to happen one day. He's been a truly wonderful pet, so loyal to me and a great guard dog although he doesn't hear the door bell now if somebody comes in the house he has plenty to say. He really guards me and I love him to bits. He is snoring his head off now, beats any man for snoring.

All the very best to you all at the Springer Rescue Centre,

Love from Margaret & Monty



Hi,

I thought you may like an update on Henry! He has now settled in really, really well and is a great deal more 'chilled' than he was when he first arrived. He has finally given up the compulsive drinking (thank goodness!!!) and now runs to get his favourite toy whenever he gets excited or stressed, instead of drinking a whole bowl of water!!! His favourite toy is a fluffy cat which used to belong to Imogen. He really loves it and carries it around everywhere!!!

He loves 'helping' with the goats and ponies and has now become really sensible around them...its amazing how quickly a dog can learn to 'sober up' when faced with an angry goat.

Sassie is now really relaxed with him and has been giving him a few tips on mousing in the hay barn...he's not quite up to her standard yet but he's getting the idea!

You will be pleased to hear that he is also still putting on weight slowly but surely. My scales at home aren't very accurate so I took him into the vets to weigh him there and he has officially put on 1.6kg in the past two weeks (a little less than I thought but still going in the right direction!)

I have attached some photos of him out walking with Imogen and Sassie. He loves jumping the ditches...maybe I should enter him for the Grand National!!

Thank you so much for your support when we first got him...I was really worried the drinking was a symptom of something serious! I have never heard of a dog drinking obsessively for psychological reasons...at least it was easy to solve!

Thanks again

Jane and all the family (both 2 and 4 legged!)

Dear Glyn & Wendy,

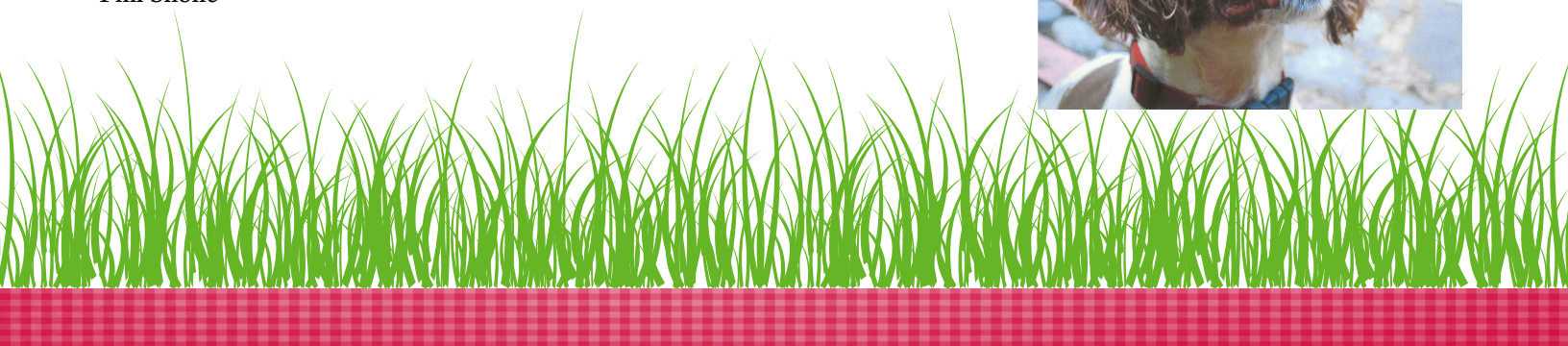
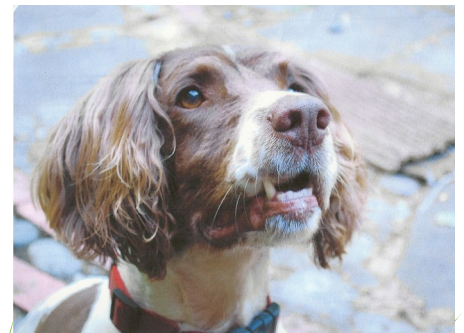
This is a really difficult email to write as we have had a tragedy here. Two weeks ago, whilst on our normal walk, Leo had a fall which dislodged a disc in his neck, restricted the spinal cord leaving him paralysed. Our local vets came and collected us from the mountain (thank goodness for mobile phones), and after sedation, X-rays and examination referred us to a specialist in Bristol. There they carried out an MRI scan and identified the issue. They believed that there was a 90% chance of success and accordingly Leo had an operation.

That was just over two weeks ago. It became apparent that there was not any improvement, nor was there any realistic chance of an improvement. After much soul searching and discussions with our vet we have had to have him destroyed. I am sure you can imagine how devastated we all are. Our only consolation is that in the time we had him he was such a happy little lad. I don't think his tail stopped wagging from the moment he arrived. He has given us so much pleasure.

He really enjoyed being with us – he absolutely loved the fields, forests and mountains. It was a real pleasure to see how much he enjoyed his daily walks. His confidence grew so much and yet you were aware that he never let you out of his sight he was such fun.

I've attached a photograph from July 2009 – not long after a haircut.
Thank you so much for all you did when he needed your help.

Kindest regards
Phil Shone



Dear Springer Rescue,

Thank you to Glyn & Wendy (and Tom and Fiona, foster family) for introducing us and allowing us to re-home a beautiful boy called 'Chudleigh'. Chudleigh had a very happy life but his previous owners couldn't give him the time that he needed so was given to Springer Rescue for re-homing. A very handsome Springer with a very calm and superior attitude! So Chudleigh came down in the world and joined our family. We thought the name Chudleigh was too superior for us so we re-named him Charlie and he came into our lives and rescued us from doggie loneliness.

Charlie settled very quickly but it took him a little while to get used to our routine. Going to sleep during the day when we were up and about, waking up in the evening when we wanted to sit and watch TV but he wanted to play. A bit topsy turvey to our lives but he has now been with us nearly six months, our routine is now his routine to. Charlie really likes to go for a walk around the fields and woods near where we live. Especially enjoying chasing any bird or squirrel he sees! His favourite place in our garden is under the trees at the top of the garden watching for any passing foxes.

Charlie is a very quiet dog, not barking much, taking everything in his stride. But he can be very brave when he sees the neighbours sunflower heads showing above the fence, defending us, by barking madly until he is satisfied that he had made his point known!

The only other time he has voiced his opinion was to the hot air balloon that went overhead! Charlie is 4 years old and is still playful. He likes playing with a Frisbee in the garden and the odd tennis ball. Imagine his surprise when he pounced on a ball in the garden only to find out it was a puffball mushroom, exploding in his face and nose, making him sneeze and splutter.

Charlie can be very helpful as well. He can help us unpack the new lawn mower by running off with the packaging – ripping it to pieces all over the place! He can even take away any plant cuttings and spread them all around the garden! Charlie is also very good when we are clearing any border of plants – he can dig a hole with the best of us! Pity in was in the middle of the lawn! But that got our attention which is what he wanted! He's got us wrapped around his little paw! And we don't care because we love him so very much.

Charlie has made lots of doggie friends. He is in love with Ella, a very large, very gentle Rottweiler, and they both love running through the standing corn together. Charlie is not keen on Yogi, a border collie who nips Charlie on his side when they run together. There must be a competitive streak in the doggie world because Yogi always wants to be in the lead! As for Alfie, the Golden Retriever – well have you seen the film 'Showdown at the OK Corral!?' both Charlie and Alfie have a standoff but Charlie is always the first to run – then they love running, jumping, chasing and generally having great fun together.

We hope that Charlie enjoys our company because we really enjoy his! We are having fun rediscovering the local parks and woods together! Charlie is training us well.

From Jackie xxxx

Hi Glyn, Hi Wendy,

I've been here nearly 7 months now. You know, I really love it. I have got the best friend I could ever have, his name is Woody, he's really handsome and fit. I played hard to get at first, but he could tell I was nervous and gave me the space I needed. I think I might love him, we quite often share a kiss. Mum and dad laugh when we do this, and yesterday dad said, "oh blimey, get a room you two" what does he mean?? That brings me on to my mum and dad, they can talk, I quite often see them having a kiss. Mum spends a lot of time talking to me and stroking me, she's great, she's always cooking something and now and again something falls on the floor that's good to eat. I think she gets a bit confused though, because she sometimes calls me 'hoover,' and I know my names Lucy. I don't mind though. I have to be quick though as Woody is really fast and sometimes beats me there. He eats everything, including onion, eeuuck! He's welcome to that stuff.

Dad doesn't spend much time in the kitchen, mum says he's in the way. I sometimes feel sorry for him on his own in the lounge, so I tell mum I want to go and see him, she didn't understand at first, but when I kept running to the door and looking at her, she got the message.

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I spend most evenings with dad in the lounge, because its warm and comfy and if I get really close he can reach my head with his and he strokes me until I fall asleep. Dad also likes to go on long walks, every day. Even when it's wet and cold. I wasn't use to this to start with and I used to hide under the table, but he's pretty insistent. I wasn't use to all this exercise, I use to lie and sleep a lot. I'm still not a big fan of all this running around lark. Woody is 2 years older than me and he's besotted with I, he's going to do himself a mischief if he's not careful. Anyway some days I quite enjoy it and others not so much, it's great when we bump into Martine, she has Murphy and Molly and they know dad and Woody, they're Springer's as well and we all go swimming together. Oh and then there's Andy with Benson and Sue and Amber and Karen and Hamish. Hmmm going out probably isn't that bad.

Anyway I thought I'd better let you know what's going on in my life because I don't want you to worry. Dad says I can send you an email anytime I want, as long as I don't drool on the keyboard, see ya.

Love Lucy xxxxx

Hi Glyn, Wendy and Auntie Keeley,

Just thought I'd put pen to paper (or paws to keyboard) as I am sat here with nothing to do.

Mum finally persuaded dad to let me be spayed on Thursday so while dad is out with Molly I'm on short lead walks only and stuck at home with mum (not that I mind, cos she does spoil me), but unfortunately because I wont stop trying to scratch and bite the stitches I have to wear a silly lampshade. Do humans not know how annoying it is when you have an itch that you can't scratch. Saying that, dad lets me get up on the settee with him so he can scratch my tummy.

We went to Norfolk for our hols this year. It was brilliant running along the beach and playing in the sea, though for some reason the water didn't taste the same as what's in our drinking bowls. We walked for miles and miles and played with some new friends we met. They were strange looking animals as they had no hair or legs but were brilliant swimmers, Molly and I didn't stand a chance keeping up with them in the water. When we got further up the beach we saw a group of them on the beach so mum put up on our leads whilst dad took some photos of them. I couldn't understand why they didn't want to run along the beach with us but mum said they were seals and couldn't run. Oh well never mind I'll just stick to chasing seagulls in future.

I can't wait to be allowed to go walking again in the mornings with Molly and our two friends Meg & Charlie. Charlie is a 10 month old Labradoodle who thinks just cos he's bigger than me he can boss me about but he soon found out how springy a springer can be. If I time it right I can pull his ears.

Well got to go now as Molly's back so it must be time for our treat.

Hope to see you all soon and hope you like the Christmas card. Dad took the photo on one of our walks last weekend.

Love Tia (and Molly) Thomas xxx



Rufus says boo!

Just to let you know that “Rufus” has settled really well and is making lots of new friends – 2 legged and 4 legged. He has also been making a regular appearance at our local pub after his walks. We bought him a lovely red collar (good Lancashire colour!).

When we left with him on Sunday 3 weeks ago, he was sitting beautifully next to my father on the back seat of the car and Glyn asked us to spoil him rotten & not to leave him outside as much as he had been. Well he really loves his walks (well runs) and swims, and has adjusted well to being a mostly indoors dog with an upstairs and downstairs bed.

Initially during that first weekend he was quite understandably quite anxious & followed us everywhere but by the end of Monday he had worked out that with 2 good walks a day he could afford to snooze in between!! He also likes to clamber up onto my father’s lap – (mostly when he is trying to read and Rufus wants some attention or a cuddle) and also which sofa is the dog sofa! Speaking of sofas he loves to stand on the sofa on his hind legs, front paws on the window sill & look up and down the street – but rarely barks in the house! Our neighbour calls him the “neighbourhood watch” and waves at him as he enters his own house.

We cannot believe that we have only had him 3 weeks – he has fitted in so well and we could not have asked for a more friendly, lovely companion” he has already lost a couple of kilos and is developing toned muscles in his legs. He was really good at the vets that first week and has since had his teeth cleaned. He still follows my father upstairs when he goes into the shower in the morning – taking stairs 2 at a time and patiently waits for him on the landing. He does not bother too much about following me – other than in the kitchen.

He loves boiled chicken and boiled carrots with his dried food and also Butchers tripe. When my friend carelessly left her lunch on the coffee table (at nose height) he helped himself to half of her deep filled chicken salad sandwich (M&S of course).

He seems to love being in the car and will be going to the seaside at the end of the month for a long weekend – Norfolk (lots of beaches) and then a week in The North Yorks Moors at the end of April. All of our previous dogs have loved the sea so we hope he will too! Its hard to imagine how his previous family could have parted with him but I guess with a family finding time is more of a challenge. Their loss was our gain.

Thank you again for all the good work that you do with the dogs – its great to see that so many of the dogs post Rufus have already gone from the re-homing section and are hopefully already in new homes.

Regards,

Leslie & Elaine Kessler

PS. Love from Rufus – woof.



Dear Glyn & Wendy

As I explained when I rang you last weekend, on Saturday 26th March at 11.15am, our lovely little girl Megan closed her eyes for the final time. Our world was shattered but we know that Megan would not have suffered and that she has now gone to a better place and did not have to endure any future pain and suffering.

She had reached a grand age of fourteen and we had given her a loving home and considered her one of the family. The sense of loss is overwhelming Glyn she had been a wonderful friend and companion to Julie and I and we had seven years of constant fun, enjoyment and mutual happiness.

We spent many times taking walks together and going swimming and walking in the countryside around us. All that we have now are our memories and pictures of Megan, but they are plenty and many and all of them joyous. She gave us so much fun and brightened up our lives.

From the first moment when you brought her down from your vehicle at the stables I fell in love with her instantly and knew that Megan would be coming home with me the first moment I saw her.

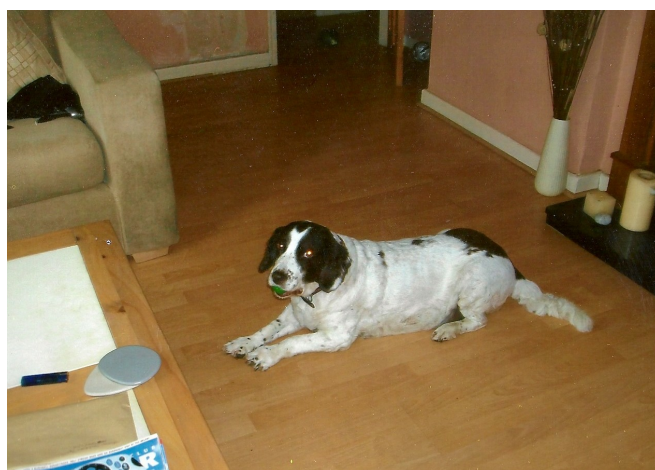
I feel a special bond with yourself and Wendy and Glyn and felt compelled to let you know what had happened to Megan. The vet informed us that Megan's heart was not pumping blood correctly to her brain and therefore she was experiencing strokes. It would not have been fair to allow her to go on as she would not have been able to go out for walks and her quality of life would have been greatly reduced. It hurt me to make the decision but I know in my heart that I did the noble thing for Megan. We will never be able to stop loving and missing Megan, we just hope that the hurting, sense of loss and sadness will subside.

I am sending you a photo of Megan Glyn of I'm sure that yourself and Wendy will remember her. A great hole has appeared in Julie and my life we hope that the wounds will heal and if you need any help in re-housing any other little angels you will consider us in the future when the time is right.

We are grieving at the moment, will never forget our darling Megan but would like, eventually to give a loving home in the future to another precious Springer.

We remain yours faithfully

Kieron Mongan & Julie Seddon.



Gallery

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Miss Muffy



Daisy & Holly



Rufus



Harry



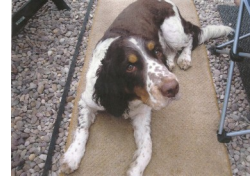
George & Pippa



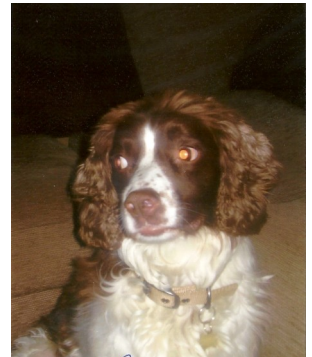
Billy Bell



Penny



Baxter



Reggie



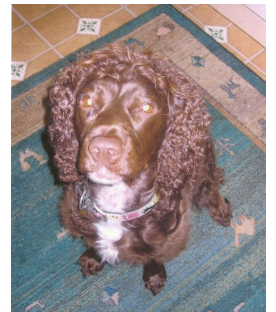
Ruby



Max



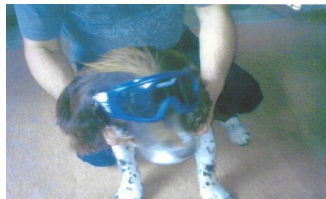
Sailor Boy Alfie



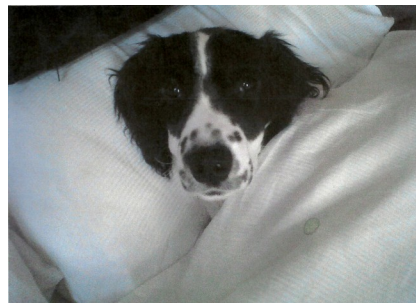
Marnie



Buster



Gunner



Una



Stella

