

# The Alternative Dog

Incorporating the Alternative Cat and the Honey's Newsletter

Spring 2021

## A few words from Jonathan, Honey's founder



**Darcy, one of Honey's longest standing customers, catching up on her reading.**

course, to welcome new customers, especially as most come by word of mouth, which makes them almost like family. But our main focus remains the same as it is every year, being to support our team, look after our existing customers and ensure that The Honey's Always Gets Through. Since the beginning of the health crisis the last of these has been a challenge. In particular, it has been tricky obtaining certain ingredients. To offer just one example: duck. Our free range and organic duck farmers were supplying duck breast to posh restaurants and we were buying the rest of the bird. When dining out became problematic, duck couldn't be found in quantity for love or money. Happily, the duck situation – like the general situation – has improved but our better-safe-than-sorry-existing-customers-come-first policy won't change. What we are doing, though, is turning our attention to another equally important area: our environmental impact. Honey's became carbon neutral last year and this year (from April 1st) we have become Better than Carbon Neutral. Better? We became carbon neutral through a combination of reduction and offsetting. The thing about reducing one's carbon footprint is that it isn't easy to keep making meaningful improvements. We have already switched to green energy, cut consumption, reduced travel, changed our packaging and so forth. Now we have to be more creative. Which is why we also invest in carbon credits, which are used to fund environmental projects that reduce emissions. Our external environmental consultants audit us annually and advise us on how many (and which) credits to purchase. But we wanted to go further. So now, in addition to buying the gold standard of credits, we are making an additional monthly donation to the Rainforest Trust. Longstanding Honey's customers will not be surprised by our choice of recipient since I am one of the charity's trustees. What I love about it is that it has at its main objective the purchase and conservation of rainforest. It works with local NGOs – thus avoiding 'green imperialism' and also creates local employment. It has a very low-cost base (a lot of the work is done by volunteers) and thanks to other generous donors every £1 we give is matched with another £1. To date, by the way, Rainforest Trust has saved 33 million acres – an area about the size of England. Anyway, this is why we feel we are now Better than Carbon Neutral. What else is in the pipeline for the coming year? We are keeping an eye on two interesting ingredient-related developments. The first is lab grown meat. We are a little concerned about anything that is synthetic (will it be bio available, will it contain the required nutrition?) but we are open to the possibility. The second is insect protein. Wild dogs do eat insects but when I tried feeding samples to Darling, Cosmo and Elsa they turned their noses up in disgust! We are also worried that it could be nutritionally inadequate. Anyway, it is still early days on both counts and in the meantime I continue to feel that 'natural is best'. On a different note, we are also working on an education programme for veterinary professionals, providing more free information for dog lovers and a new way of commemorating dogs that have died. As usual, I have run out of space. I'll close by thanking you for your wonderful support and custom. We don't take it for granted. If I can ever be of service or if you have an idea, comment or complaint my personal email is [js@jonathanself.com](mailto:js@jonathanself.com) and I would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you again.

Jonathan

Jonathan (Self)  
Honey's Founder

## In this issue



### Dog stars

Favourite stars of the silver screen by BBC presenter, Janice Kipling



### Cancer in dogs

Is it preventable? Dr Vicki Adams offers tips on prevention.



### Postcard dogs

Examples from Libby Hall's amazing collection.



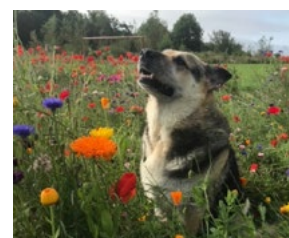
### Autoimmune skin disorders

One of the UK's experts, Dr Mark Craig, on treatment options.



### Bath time with Honey's

Seven intrepid canine customers review natural shampoos.



### In Memoriam

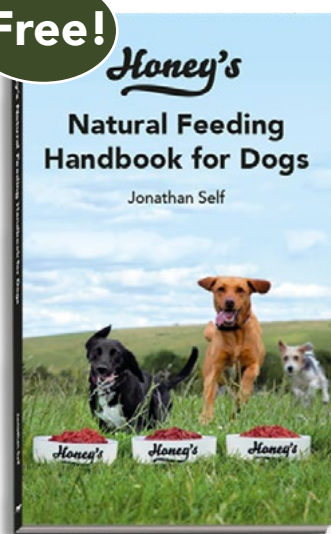
Six pages of articles and photographs celebrating canine loved ones.

  
**Honey's**  
REAL DOG FOOD

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# HONEY'S NEWS

Free!



## New edition out now

After considerable procrastination, Jonathan has produced a revised edition of *Honey's Natural Feeding Handbook*. In addition to being completely updated it contains several new chapters including one on how to be an ethical dog lover and another on how to lose weight without feeling hungry (sadly only applicable to dogs). If you would like a copy please email or telephone and we will pop one in with your next order. We are also happy to send a copy in the post, free of charge, to anyone you nominate.

- In one study of vigorously exercising dogs, those eating a plant-based diet showed damage to their blood. The blood remained normal in meat-eating dogs.
- A non-meat diet often contains high-fibre carbohydrates. The cellulose in the fibre can't be digested (it goes in one end and out the other) and the starches reduce the body's ability to absorb other vital nutrients, such as calcium, magnesium, zinc and iron.
- Many dogs lose an unhealthy amount of weight when switched to a non-meat diet. We have seen this in about half the dogs we have been testing recipes on (as soon as it happened we dropped them from the trial).

In time, we hope to overcome all these issues. After all, there are many, many dogs who seem to manage very well on a non-meat diet. However, feeding naturally carnivorous animals a diet which may jeopardise their health is both counter-productive and unethical. We have, incidentally, tested some of the complete vegetarian or vegan dog foods on the market and we cannot recommend them because they are either nutritionally inadequate and/or depend on artificial supplementation. Such supplementation often has poor bioavailability and may cause long term health issues. If we are going to produce a complete, non-meat dog food it will use fresh, 100% natural ingredients.



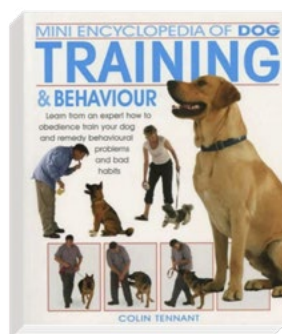
## Naughty Dog Photo Competition: win a month's worth of food

The new Honey's Competition is simplicity itself: submit a picture of your dog doing something naughty. First prize is one month of free Honey's (to the value of your most recent order) and there are 3 runner-up prizes of either 6 packets of Beautiful Joe's or bones or biscuits to the same value. Rules? Barely any. You can submit up to three photographs and the judges' (appointed by Honey's) decision, no matter how unartistic, will be final. Please email your entry to [competition@honeysrealdogfood.com](mailto:competition@honeysrealdogfood.com) before 15th June 2022 or post it to Honey's Photo Competition, Darling's House, Salisbury Road, Pewsey SN9 5PZ.

## Vegetarian and cat food update

Progress on our plans to produce a non-meat based dog food and a cat food can only be described as slow. We have more or less shelved plans for Pottenger's Wild & Organic Cat Food until the worst effects of the health crisis have passed, because we are just too busy looking after existing and much valued Honey's customers. News on the non-meat based food is better, in so far as the external vets we are working with have been able to continue with research and trials. Some of the issues they/we are trying to resolve include:

- Dogs require an easily digestible diet that is rich in protein so that nutrients can be rapidly absorbed into their bodies. Dogs that don't eat any meat struggle to digest the high fibre of plant-based diets and are at risk of vitamin D and B deficiencies. It can take two years and sometimes longer for any deficiency in a diet to show up.
- Proteins derived from animal products, like collagen, elastin and keratin – all of which are vital for healthy skin, muscles and joints – are difficult, if not impossible, to derive from a non-meat diet. Plant-based protein does not contain the correct balance of amino acids.
- Many dogs are lactose intolerant so should not eat milk or cheese. Eating too many raw eggs can result in deficiencies in essential nutrients like biotin.
- Puppies have high protein needs (up to five times an adult dog) and require a complex balance of nutrients. Not eating meat could lead to bone disease and/or stunted growth.



## Free draw: 10 top training books to be won

We have got our paws on five copies of Colin Tennant's bestselling *Mini Encyclopedia of Dog Training and Behaviour* and five copies of his equally brilliant *Breaking Bad Habits in Dogs*.

To win a copy all you have to do is email [freedraw@honeysrealdogfood.com](mailto:freedraw@honeysrealdogfood.com) before the 15th June 2022. Colin Tennant is, by the way, one of Britain's leading dog behaviourists, who pioneered the psychological approach to solving the behaviour of problem pets. He has frequently appeared on television as an expert dog behaviourist.



# On the farm

Sigh and deeper sigh! At the time of writing this, we still can't make our usual farm visits, but we have high hopes that by the summer we will – finally - be back on track. In the meantime, we asked some of our producers to send us photos of their land and livestock. We continue to support smaller, mixed farms (where the emphasis is on biodiversity and high standards of animal welfare). We can also confirm that we are not using any new producers and so we have, of course, regularly visited them in the past.



Photographs kindly sent to us by some of our producers



## Honey's Dog of the Month

Tarot is an eight-month-old Italian Spinone, and as with most rescues his story is a sad one. In Italy, Spinoni are generally bred for hunting, being a HPR (Hunt Point Retrieve) breed. Tarot came from a reputable breeder and was bought by a hunter, who returned him after a few weeks on health grounds. The breeder was going to put him to sleep, but Paola from SOFA (Spinoni Overseas For Adoption) took him in, arranged an operation for what was thought to be a dislocated patella and found him a home with the Leach family here in the UK. Tarot arrived on 29th December 'a nervous, frightened, skinny little scrap, still limping'. His new brothers Elmo and Babio made him welcome and an orthopaedic vet was consulted since the Italian surgery was clearly not successful. Latest reports indicate that Tarot is blossoming! He is loving and wonderfully natured and very tolerant of the pain he is in. New surgery is planned (if it hasn't already happened) and once completed he will be as right as rain.

## Budding canine artists



Thank you to Brooke and Kylie DeLuca for your wonderful pictures for which we have sent book tokens in payment. Younger, two-legged relatives of Honey's fed dogs who would like to send us pictures for the newsletter will be similarly rewarded. Please email Jonathan: [js@jonathanself.com](mailto:js@jonathanself.com)



## Well Done Rixi

Congratulations to Rixi who has a wall full of rosettes! This particular photo was taken after he and Megan came first in the Oswestry show!





## Wilson runs 170 miles for charity - fuelled by Honey's

By Sarette Martin

I've run my dog Wilson since he was 18 months old, and most of my runs are with him. During the first lockdown, I had the idea for a fundraiser - completing 10km a day for a month.

Being a collie cross, I knew he'd have no difficulty running 6.2 miles a day, and the distance itself wasn't an issue for me. However, running 31 of them on the bounce could have been! So my aim was to run as many as possible, but I wouldn't beat myself up if we did a few split runs and walks, to make up 10km a day.

In the end Wilson and I ran 10km on 26 days in December, and the rest were at least a 5km run, with the remaining distance walked. Wilson joined in every day, apart from two rest days. We ran in the wind, dark and rain; in crisp winter sunshine; and through mud and knee deep water.

My running total for the month was 188 miles, while Wilson's was an amazing 170. With walks included he notched up 185 miles (298km), while I did 212 miles (341km).

We raised £2,250 for two charities - £2,000 for Pensions4Paws, which assists with vet bills for retired police and fire dogs from Hampshire and the Thames Valley - and £250 for Hampshire Search & Rescue Dogs, a team of volunteers who train their pet dogs to search for vulnerable missing people on police searches. I joined in 2013, and am the primary callout coordinator. Last year was our busiest ever with 108 incidents.

Wilson has been fed Honey's since he was 16 months old - he's now 7.5 years - and he thrives on it. I'm convinced his robust health, and the ease with which he completed this challenge, is due in no small part to his diet. Thank you Honey's for your wonderful dog food.

**And a huge thank you, Sarette and Wilson! We have made donations to both the charities mentioned and if readers would like to do the same the details are: [pensions4paws.com](http://pensions4paws.com) and [hsardogs.org.uk](http://hsardogs.org.uk)**



## Budding feline artist

Thank you to Madeleine Audsley for this wonderful Owl and Pussycat picture for which we have sent a book token in payment. Younger, two-legged relatives of Honey's fed cats who would like to send us pictures for the newsletter will be similarly rewarded. Please email Jonathan: [js@jonathanself.com](mailto:js@jonathanself.com)



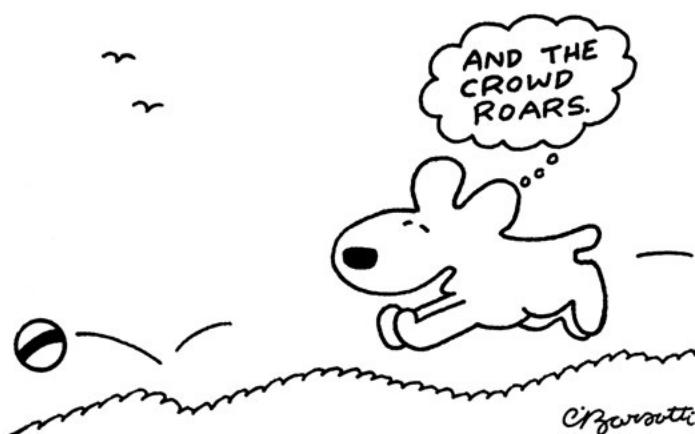
## Health Team Case Study: Ronnie Sharphouse

Ronnie, an adorable, young working cocker spaniel, was diagnosed with a severe heart murmur, a hole in his heart and a damaged heart valve. He also had some eye issues. It was suspected that his health issues were a result of poor breeding.

Despite everything Ronnie is extremely energetic and, happily, is able to enjoy walks with his family and on the beach, providing he doesn't over exercise. His family were very keen to switch him to a raw diet and the first consideration was to ensure that the transition was not rushed. Therefore, the Health Team started him on a selection of our low fat Out of Season working dog and lean recipes. It was important to keep the fat level low initially for his digestion and heart. However, because he is a working cocker and his idea of low exercise is still very active, we recommended 3.5% of his body weight every day, especially as he needed to gain some weight. Then, over time, we moved him to a selection of low and medium fat recipes as a maintenance diet. Thank you to Ronnie's Mum for her wonderful support and faith in Honey's. Please do remember that if you are caring for a dog with health issues the Honey's Health Team is at your service.

## Please support the Mucky Hound

Long-standing Honey's customer, Lauren Goad, works for The Mucky Hound, a fantastic doggy day care centre (that embraces natural feeding) based near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. To support their business they have recently opened an online shop offering toys and other treats. [www.themuckyhound.co.uk](http://www.themuckyhound.co.uk)





# Competition winners

In the last issue we held two competitions – one for dogs and one for cats.. As usual we were rather overrun with all the many entries. The winner and some of the runners-up are shown here. Thank you to everyone who took part.

1st



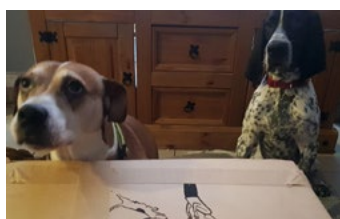
Amber Lowman



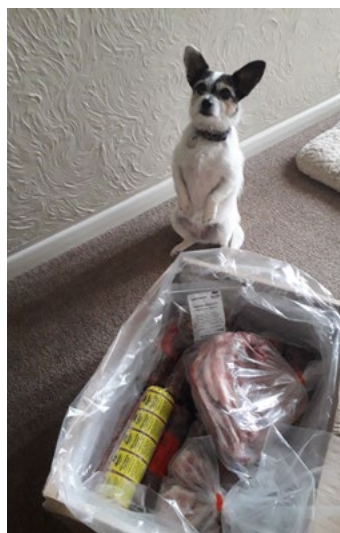
Amber Wilson



Bailey Murray/Meech



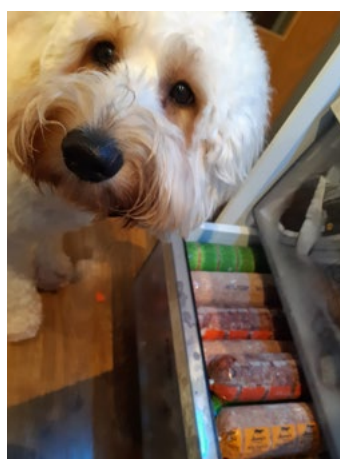
Zak and Oscar Hughes



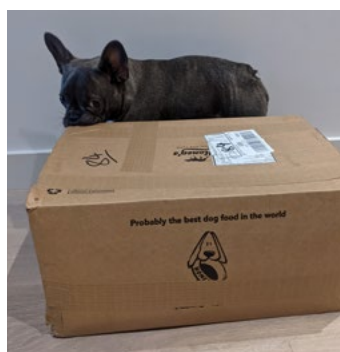
Isabella Halliwell



Clara Audsley



Aussie Trapnell



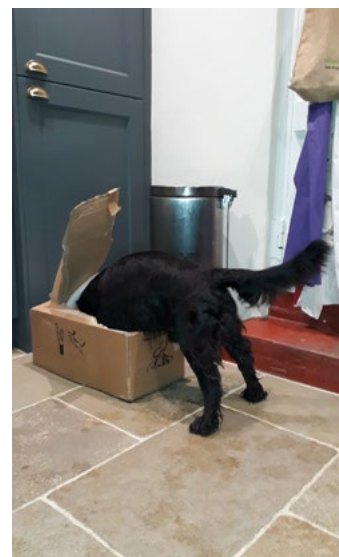
Olive Tan



Macy Macdonald



Nina Sullivan



Tipper Weatherley



Arlo Cridlan

1st



Artemis



Algernon



Felix



# Janet Kipling picks out some of her favourite dog stars of the silver screen



Our Christmas treat at my primary school one year was a screening of *The Incredible Journey*. The 1963 classic is based on the true story of two dogs and a cat who become separated from their owners on holiday and travel 250 miles across the Canadian wilderness to find them. We crowded into the assembly hall – which had a sheet hung on one wall for the screen – and waited in excitement.

I am afraid that, more or less from the opening titles onwards, the tears streamed down my face. I was tormented by the possibility of the animals losing their way and being eaten by predators or freezing to death. And the happy ending was no consolation for how hard the elderly Old English Bulldog, Bodger, had struggled to keep up with the others. If by any chance the kind teachers who tried to console me are reading this, thank you, but over the years it has not got any better. I just can't watch a dog film without weeping. Even the happy ones. Even the animated ones! I expect this is partly what their creators want. These visual celebrations of our dearest friends' heroism, loyalty, unconditional love and goofiness, touch something in us that perhaps few other film genres can.

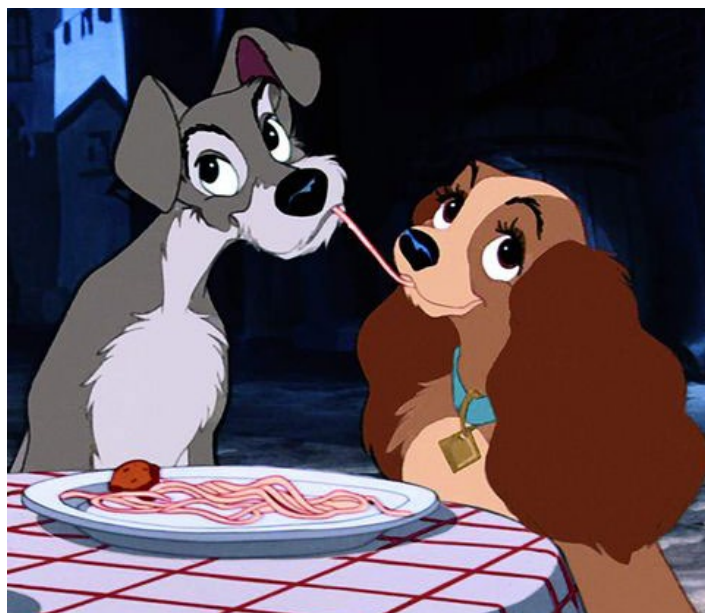


There's a common misconception that *Lassie* was the first ever film role for a dog. But no. *When a Dog Loves*, from 1927, starred Ranger, a handsome German Shepherd. I can't find a word about the pioneering animal actor who played Ranger, but his on-screen thwarting of jewellery thieves set the course for hundreds of depictions of canine bravery and honour during the following century.

*Lassie Come Home* hit the screens in 1943, the tale of a destitute family forced to sell their dog, who then strikes out across hill and dale from

Scotland to Yorkshire to find them. There were six sequels, and the first ever big screen canine star was born. Although female in the stories, the first *Lassie* was actually played by Pal, a male Rough Collie from California who had been given to his devoted trainer Rudd Weatherwax to break his habits of excessive barking and chasing motorcycles. Pal starred in all the *Lassie* films, and his descendants appeared in the TV series spin-off. He eventually retired and died at the grand old age of 18. Despite being highly trained, Pal apparently never lost his love of chasing motorcycles.

*Old Yeller* in 1957 continued in the same vein as *Lassie*, defending his humans from bears, cows and wild hogs in the wilds of post-Civil War Texas. Labrador owners may be more familiar with their dogs' heroic efforts to get into the rubbish bin rather than save their lives, but in movie-land this breed has a noble lineage. In *Far From Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog* (1995), another Labrador protects his 15-year-old owner through their fight for survival in the wild and eventual journey back home in British Columbia. Both of course heralded *Marley and Me*, of which more later.



Animated dogs were a lot easier to train than motorcycle-obsessed Pal, but no less emotionally engaging for audiences. The 1955 Disney classic *Lady and the Tramp* was amongst the first of the cartoon depictions of dogs on the silver screen. Who can forget the spaghetti scene where pampered uptown spaniel Lady comes nose to nose with her scruffy mutt admirer Tramp?

**God loves a terrier**  
*Best in Show*

**For the next several minutes nothing much happened, biscuit wise.**  
*A Dog's Purpose*

Of course, the very best animations combine all the things that we could never get a real dog to do. For example, *Bolt* (2008) gave us a film star within a film, in the shape of a little white Shepherd who is an actor in a science fiction action show, but believes his super-powers are real. He goes to save his co-star Penny from the threat of an imagined kidnapping. This involves another of the long, unaccompanied treks which seem to be the hallmark of so many dog films.



Yet another painfully lengthy and unsupervised journey fraught with danger is the lot of my favourite animated dog, Max, from *The Secret Life of Pets* (2016). When Max's adored owner Katie brings a massive, shaggy new companion called Duke to share their home, jealous Max tries to get rid of him, only to find the pair picked up by the dog warden. The other pets from their apartment block get together to cross New York and rescue them. Another happy ending – and I'm reaching for the tissues again.

**A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor, educated or illiterate, clever or dull. Give him your heart and he will give you his.**  
*Marley and Me*





Scooby-Doo (2002), also animated and the biggest grossing dog film of all time, paved the way for dogs as anti-heroes. Scooby heads up a gang of amateur investigators, led by his devoted and unassuming owner Shaggy. With so many portrayals of dogs on screens celebrating their noble life-saving and life-affirming qualities, Scooby went all out to show us the other reason we love them – they make us laugh.

**The humans have tried everything. Now it's up to us dogs.**  
101 Dalmatians

Turner and Hooch (1989) and Beethoven (1992) also go down the comedy route, as well as putting big slobbery Mastiffs and St Bernards on the map. Despite the laughs, Hooch's death is heart breaking. For Hooch, like most dog film characters, is the emotional heart and moral compass of the story. Their tenacity, devotion and love are the standards by which the human characters are measured.



The fact is, dogs are better than we are, and films honour them thus. Even in *Marley and Me* (2008), the gargantuan trail of disaster left in Labrador Marley's wake is nothing compared to the purity of his bond with his owner John Grogan. Marley, by the way, was played by 22 Labradors of varying ages and the film's main theme is that it takes a dog to teach us humans what is important in life. This is also the theme of another big hit, *My Dog Skip* (2000). Narrated by Harry Connick Jr., the film tells the story of lonely nine-year-old Willie Morris, growing up in the 1940s with his beloved Jack Russell Skip. 'I was an only child. He was an only dog,' says Willie. Through their partnership, Willie overcomes his shyness and also learns to see the world differently. As with so many others, the film ends with the devastating loss of Skip.

**All dogs go to heaven because dogs are naturally good and loyal and kind.**  
*All Dogs Go To Heaven*

Ever since the first lockdown last year I have spent untold hours curled up on the sofa with my own four-legged family member (and a box of tissues) watching my favourite canine films. It is a diversion I strongly recommend.

**Cats are smarter than dogs, huh? Right. She doesn't even know the meaning of the word 'stay'.**  
*Homeward Bound*

## Hot dogs!

Regatta, the sports retailer, analysed all the dog films in the world (they claim) to see which dogs pulled in the most at the box office. Here's their top 10!

1. Dachshunds - \$278m
2. Pugs - \$264m
3. Golden Retrievers - \$249m
4. Dalmatians - \$212m
5. Bearded Collies - \$193m
6. Jack Russell Terriers - \$168m
7. Border Terriers - \$172m
8. Chihuahuas - \$154m
9. Bull Terriers - \$139m
10. Bulldogs - \$133m



*"O.K., so I dig a hole and put the bone in the hole.  
But what's my motivation for burying it?"*



## Dog food to the stars!

We are very proud to be feeding the famous canine star: Otto Crossingham. Otto has just featured in *The Epic Adventures of Morph* (Sky Kids/Now TV). In an exclusive interview with Honey's, Otto said: 'The whole plasticine characters being difficult to work with was a worry, but they were actually all right. Their bad reputation seems to be based on unsubstantiated claims of excessive fun and surrealism, they were rather nice, down to earth chaps who also happen to be great actors.'





**Dr. Vicki Adams**

# Cancer in Dogs: Is it preventable?

Dr Vicki Adams is one of the UK's leading veterinary epidemiology consultants, CEO of the Animal Cancer Trust and editor of the BMJ's Veterinary Record Open.

While it's a hard pill for pet owners to swallow, most vets understand that curing cancer in dogs is often difficult if not impossible. Success or remission depends on the particular type of cancer as well as an early accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Recognising this fact then brings the question, can we prevent cancer in dogs?

As a veterinary epidemiologist, I also know that there are no clinical trials that prove you can prevent cancer in at-risk dogs. However, clinical experience and a degree of common sense make a strong case for keeping them away from harmful substances. Just like us, dogs live longer and healthier lives when they have good genes, drink clean water, get enough exercise and exposure to light, are free from stress, avoid exposure to known and potential carcinogens, breathe clean air, enjoy an efficient endocrine and immune function and eat a healthy diet.

I am going to address these ten areas of your pet's life that may help to prevent the development of cancer. I hope that after reading this article, you will see how a few small changes could make a big impact and potentially even save dogs' lives. This article will cover the first five of these and in a future newsletter I will cover the remaining five topics.

## Ways to prevent cancer in dogs.

- |             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Genetics | 5. Emotional well-being  |
| 2. Water    | 6. Environmental Factors |
| 3. Exercise | 7. Neutering             |
| 4. Light    | 8. Vaccination           |
|             | 9. Diet                  |
|             | 10. Supplements          |

## Genetics

An important first step in selecting a puppy or adult dog is learning everything you can about the immediate family i.e. his or her parents, grandparents, and siblings. Some breeds are notoriously prone to cancer and some lines within those breeds are worse than others, so it is worth asking and doing your own research. Look for good genes and good health when selecting puppies or adopting adult dogs. While rescue dogs seldom come with this information and even the best-bred dog can develop cancer, starting with good raw material can reduce the risk. If you know that your dog may be prone to certain types of cancer, there are steps you can take to make a cancer diagnosis less likely.

## Water

Your tap water might carry more toxins than you are aware of. Although it may taste fine and everyone in the house is healthy, the build-up of some chemicals over time can lead to serious health problems, including cancer. If you have concerns about your tap water, you may want to offer your pets filtered water that you change frequently. Using glass or ceramic bowls can also help to prevent toxins from plastic leaching into the water.

## Exercise

Obesity can create inflammation, which can lead to the development of cancer. It is never too late to get your pet to lose weight and get in shape. Monitoring both body weight and body condition score can help you keep your pet from becoming too fat or thin as they age. Although few of us appreciate the important role it plays, the lymph system is a key factor in cancer prevention. Lymph is a clear fluid, similar to blood but lacking red blood cells. It contains the immune cells called lymphocytes (T-cells and B-cells) and circulates through lymphatic vessels that carry waste to the lymph nodes where bacteria, viruses and other toxins are filtered. When lymph circulation is impaired, the body is less efficient in

removing harmful substances and conditions become more favourable to the growth of cancer. Active exercise improves lymph circulation and deep, diaphragmatic breathing. Grooming with a brush that moves from the feet to the heart is a simple addition to daily routine that can also stimulate lymph circulation. We all know that exercise is so important. It stimulates the immune system and releases endorphins. Consistent exercise is also beneficial in increasing gastrointestinal motility and this helps normalise faeces and the elimination of toxins from the body.

## Light

The right light can help to prevent cancer. However, not just any light. It needs to be Mother Nature's full-spectrum unfiltered light that activates the hypothalamus and keeps the nervous and endocrine systems balanced. Insufficient light, and the wrong kind of light (such as fluorescent light) adversely affects the health of plants, animals, fish, birds and reptiles. The term mal-illumination has been used to describe this phenomenon which is now known to suppress immune function and contribute to skin damage, cancer and other problems. Exposure to natural light is necessary for our health and our pets' health. A shady screened porch, the shelter of a tree or an open window or doorway can give us what our bodies need. While some plastics allow the transmission of full-spectrum natural light, glass windows, windshields and sunglasses do not.

## Emotional well-being

For many healthcare experts, emotional well-being is as important to cancer prevention as diet and exercise. They believe that emotions are linked to general health via the immune system. A holistic approach would include minimising stress and supporting our pets emotionally by providing a safe and loving environment with balanced opportunities for play and rest and by encouraging social interaction with people and other animals. If one thinks about the power of positive thinking for our own well-being, then we can extend this to the care of our pets. Many believe that negative thoughts generate negative energy and that this can feed a disease such as cancer. We can combat this by visualising and treating our pets as though they are well and happy, not sick. For those of us that talk to our pets, we can also engage with them in positive conversation and meaningful activities every day.

## In conclusion

While much of what I have written here may sound quite fluffy coming from someone who depends on critical appraisal of the evidence in her daily work, I hope that you can perhaps find some hope here to fight against this dreadful disease which is so hard to treat or cure.

Vicki J Adams BSc DVM MSc PhD MRCVS, Veterinary Epidemiology Consultant. Email: [vjadams12@gmail.com](mailto:vjadams12@gmail.com) Telephone: 01359 268107  
Animal Cancer Trust [www.animalcancertrust.co.uk](http://www.animalcancertrust.co.uk)



## Beautiful Joe's donations update

Every time we sell a packet of Beautiful Joe's we donate the same quantity of treats to a rescue home. To date, with your help, we have donated over £400,000 of treats. Only last year, during the worst of the health crisis, we had to stop all treat production for a period and, as a result, we fell behind with our donations. Despite all our efforts to catch up we were still behind in February so we took an executive decision and made cash donations to the same value to 20 of the largest rescue homes in lieu of actual treats. We are, at the time of going to press, back on track with the ordinary treat donations. If, by the way, there is a rescue centre you would like us to send treats to please do let us know.





**Dr Mark Craig**

# Auto-immune skin disorders in dogs

Dr Mark Craig has specialised in veterinary dermatology since 1995 – treating animals (from dogs to hippos!) with challenging skin disorders and carrying out research. He is a member of the Raw Feeding Veterinary Society.

We hear a lot these days about auto-immune disorders, and their incidence in people is said to be skyrocketing. But what actually are they, and do they occur in dogs? Auto-immune disorders are disorders of the immune system, a complex network of cells and proteins which should protect against infection by micro-organisms like viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. Like people, all dogs have an immune system, and yes, auto-immune disorders do occur in dogs. Unlike allergies, which involve reactions to external objects, such as house dust mites, pollens, moulds, and insects, auto-immune disorders ('auto' meaning 'self') occur when the immune system attacks parts of the dog's own body, which may or may not include the skin. How common are these auto-immune skin disorders in dogs? The short answer is we don't know precisely. Nor do we know for sure whether their incidence is growing. Fortunately, they are much less common than skin allergies, but when they occur, they can have very serious consequences.

## Pemphigus foliaceus (PF)

The most common auto-immune skin disorder in the dog is pemphigus foliaceus (PF). The word pemphigus is derived from Greek, meaning pustule. Foliaceus means leaf-like. PF, first reported in dogs in 1977, occurs when the immune system no longer tolerates specific parts of the skin. It is believed that certain factors may influence the development of PF.

### Age, breed and sex

Most cases of PF occur in middle-aged or older dogs, but the condition may occur in any age of dog. Any breed is susceptible although some reports have suggested that PF occurs more frequently in English bulldogs, Chow chows, Akitas, Dachshunds, Cocker spaniels and Labrador-retrievers. Although one study showed more male dogs to be affected than bitches, there is no proof of a link between the sex of a dog and its likelihood of developing PF.

### Drugs

In people, drugs are a recognised trigger for PF, and there are reports describing a link between drugs and PF-like signs in dogs. Any drug could potentially be a trigger in a susceptible dog, but suspected reactions to certain flea-control products, other anti-parasitic agents, and antibiotics have been reported.

### Skin allergies

Older dogs with a history of skin allergies may be more prone to PF. This may be because immune system problems tend to worsen in older dogs, or it may be due to the influence on the immune system of all the drugs these dogs have received.

### Environment

Some people think environmental triggers are important. Diet has been implicated in human pemphigus and there are suggestions that the same may be true for our canine friends. Some studies have found that the effects of PF are worse in the summer. However, in other studies, investigators saw no such seasonal differences. Other triggers for PF in people include insects, viruses, heat and humidity. We don't know if the same may be true in dogs.

### What are the signs of pemphigus foliaceus in a dog?

Large, red spots and pustules erupt, although pustules quickly break up and become covered in crust. With time, large amounts of crust appear,

sometimes in specific areas such as the head, ears and feet, or sometimes more generally across the body. Hair often falls out, and the skin becomes ulcerated. Unlike most dogs with allergies, dogs with PF are often lethargic and depressed, and run a high temperature. In some dogs, the condition is painful and itchy, but this varies from dog to dog.

### Tests for pemphigus foliaceus

If we suspect PF, we can take biopsies to look for certain changes in the skin.

### What is the prognosis?

The prognosis for PF is not good, unless the trigger(s) can be identified and avoided, and even then, the immune system may take some persuading to revert back to its former healthy state. Although the condition resolves spontaneously in some dogs, it typically worsens with time, becoming less amenable to therapy. Some dogs cannot tolerate the side-effects of the drugs used in treatment.

### How can we treat dogs with pemphigus foliaceus?

Ideally, we should look for, and avoid, possible triggers including flea control products. In view of the association of diet with some cases of human pemphigus, we should consider changing the diet, possibly to one based on raw meaty bones if appropriate for both owner and patient. Raw meaty bone-based diets, high in protein, low in carbohydrate and additives, are probably the diets that most closely resemble the canine ancestral diet, on which dogs have evolved over millions of years. Fresh, complete foods or 'hypoallergenic' diets may also be appropriate.

Steroids, used to dampen down the immune system, are often very helpful in rapidly controlling the skin lesions, and making the dog happier and more comfortable. However, the dose needed is often high and there can be side-effects. Dogs on steroids will often eat and drink more; develop liver, heart, bladder or kidney problems, hormonal changes, behavioural and temperament fluctuations, diarrhoea, pancreatitis, panting, and weight gain. They may also become more prone to infections. As in people, the nature and severity of side-effects vary considerably. Vitamin B3, either given alone or with other medications, is helpful in some dogs with PF.

## Three other auto-immune conditions

### Other forms of pemphigus

There are other forms of pemphigus occasionally seen in dogs, but these are very rare.

### Lupus

Lupus is another type of auto-immune condition, seen in both people and dogs. The term lupus (meaning wolf) was used by a thirteenth-century doctor to describe erosive, facial lesions reminiscent of a wolf's bite. In discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE), the most common form of lupus, affected dogs develop a dry red nose with scale, crust, and loss of pigment. The condition, sometimes called 'collie nose', is often made worse by exposure to sunlight. Dogs typically remain well in themselves, unlike in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), in which dogs are often severely, systemically ill. Although steroid tablets are sometimes needed, DLE can often be successfully managed by avoiding sunlight, and giving vitamins, omega 3/6 combinations of essential fatty acids, and topical creams and gels.

### Alopecia areata

Alopecia areata is an uncommon disorder in which hair falls out for no apparent reason. In about 60% of affected dogs, hair will regrow without treatment.

### In conclusion

Although auto-immune conditions are often suspected by worried owners of dogs with skin problems, they are fortunately uncommon, and some are extremely rare. If you suspect an auto-immune condition, you should discuss it with your vet who may feel it appropriate to refer your dog to a veterinary dermatologist.

Dr Mark Craig, who is registered on the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons list of Advanced Veterinary Practitioners for Small Animal Dermatology, can be reached via his practice: [www.refurall-referrals.co.uk](http://www.refurall-referrals.co.uk)





# Problem barking and how to stop it

By Tina Edwards

One of the most frequent issues I was asked to solve as a behaviourist was that of problem or nuisance barking. In some cases, my client had no idea that their dog was barking when they were out and had come to learn of it because a neighbour had complained to the local council.

Barking is, of course, a very natural thing for a dog to do. It is unreasonable to expect them not to express themselves in this way. Moreover, good barking habits can be taught to your dog if you are clear about what you want your dog to bark at. For example, to respond if a warning is needed.

When dogs bark too much the first step is to identify the type. It could be:

- Territorial/Protective
- Alarm/Fear
- Boredom/Loneliness
- Greeting/Play
- Attention Seeking
- Separation Anxiety/Compulsive Barking

The next step is to consider the possible causes. These could include (amongst other things) breeding, confinement, isolation, fence line distractions, the arrival of visitors, excitement, anxiety, the need for attention, discomfort or pain, or some change in the dog's life.

## If you aren't there

Of course, if your dog is barking when you aren't there then it can be harder to identify the cause. This is where modern technology can be a great help. For very little outlay it is possible to use your phone to see how your dog behaves when you are absent. You can also ask neighbours to let you know what is happening.

## Keep a diary

If you aren't sure what is triggering excessive barking, I recommend keeping a diary. This can help to identify possible causes and patterns of behaviour.

## How to prevent Nuisance Barking

- A well socialised dog is less likely to over-react to triggers.
- Most dogs can adapt to being left alone if kindly trained to do so.
- If your dog has access to the garden whilst you are out, and he reacts to other dogs in the vicinity, provide a suitable place indoors.
- Ensure a good routine of feeding, mental and physical exercise to include interactive play with the humans in his life.
- Train yourself to notice barking (we sometimes just don't hear it!) and distract/prevent it with daily training games, never just waiting for barking to start, as adrenaline will hamper your hard work.
- A tired dog is less likely to bark.

## In conclusion

It is worth remembering that shouting will almost certainly stimulate your dog to bark more because he or she will probably think you're joining in. Always speak calmly and firmly, but don't yell. Dogs can be trained to respond to a word such as 'quiet'. The longer you leave the problem, the longer it will take to solve. One-to-one professional support can be invaluable.

Tina Edwards is a highly valued member of the Honey's Customer Care Team. For over fifteen years she was a very successful canine behaviourist and if you are looking for support she recommends her former colleagues at Bark Busters, who are committed raw feeders! [www.barkbusters.co.uk](http://www.barkbusters.co.uk). We would welcome other articles on any aspect of canine behaviour or care from any professional reading this newsletter.

## How to earn our eternal gratitude and a little thank you gift...

Thank you very much for your referrals. Do remember, we are happy to provide raw feeding and health advice to anyone who contacts us, even if they never, ever plan to become a customer. If someone you have recommended does become a customer, however, we would like to say thank you with one of the new selection of gifts shown below. For this reason, please don't forget to tell us the names of any new customers you introduce to Honey's (just to be on the safe side you could ask them to let us know, too).



## A tree planted by Woodland Trust



## Two personalised dog tags



## Our original Superdog Cape/Towel Thingie



## 10 packets of Beautiful Joe's treats + Tin



## A personalised dog bowl



## Two free shipping vouchers





## Ye Olde Rover: early English dog names

Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle

Last year, according to the Kennel Club, the most popular dog names were Bella, Luna, Charlie, Lucy and Cooper. Really lovely names, all. But suppose you have a yearning to be a little different? History offers us lots of interesting possibilities.



Terri Tirri the Dog in Alice Cassy's bronze in St Mary Deerhurst Gloucester

Traditionally, the British did not give their dogs 'people' names. Instead, they chose names that were linked to certain physical qualities (such as the texture or colour of their fur), the type of dog, or characters from antiquity or romance.

This is best explained with a few real-life examples.

- 'Tirri' (short for terrier) is etched onto the collar of a dog that lies at the feet of Lady Alice Cassy's brass effigy (c. 1400) in St Mary's Church, Deerhurst.
- The dual effigy of Sir Jehan de Seure (d. 1391) and his wife at Ozouer-le-Repos, Seine et Marne, have their dogs' names on the collars: Parceval for Sir Jehan and Dyamant for his wife.
- The letters BO are etched on a stone effigy of a dog collar that sits by the feet of a late fourteenth-century knight in St Mary's, Clifton Reynes.
- Sir Brian de Stapleton's (d. 1448) lost bronze effigy at Ingham, Norfolk, had a small dog with a pointed nose and a very fluffy neck, accompanied by a scroll that gives the beloved pet his name: Jakke.
- Around the same time, John Barker's brindled dog, Hardy, must have been a handful as, tragically, a Berkshire manorial court ordered his owner to get rid of him.

You know those books of baby names that parents-to-be often use for inspiration? The concept appears to have started with dog names. A magnificent list of over a thousand 'names of all maner of houndis' survives in a fifteenth-century manuscript copy of the hunting text

*The Master of Game*. It is organised alphabetically, starting with 'Argente/Aldirman/Archere', and each letter has names for hounds, braches (scent hounds), terriers, greyhounds and 'greybiches'. The letter S alone includes Stykefast, Swepestake, Smylfeste, and Solace. What could be more suitable for a scent hound than Nosewise? Or Holdfast and Clenche for retrievers? Sturdy was very popular for terriers. Indeed, the Abbot of Westminster Abbey, Nicholas Litlyngton, mentions in his accounts that he bought a collar for his dog Sturdy in 1369 (clearly ignoring the injunction of a previous abbot, Walter of Wenlock, who declared in 1295 that no one in his household should keep a dog or bird).



Medieval dog lovers went in for classical names (such as Pompey and Achilles), biblical names (Absolom, for instance) and affectionate names (like Trynket and Amiable). There was also a trend for comical names: Bragge, Nameles and Havegoodday, were all considered extremely droll! And Shakespeare had great fun naming the dogs in his various plays. Muntayne (Mountain) and Tiraunte (Tyrant) are in the *Tempest*, Crab in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Tray, Blanch, and Sweetheart (the little barking dogs) in *King Lear*.

Another possible source of potential dog names is to be found in the records of a crossbow shooting festival that took place in 1504. Helpfully, the organisers of this event recorded both the names of the participants and their dogs. Several competitors were accompanied by hounds called Fürst – the ancient equivalent to Prince. Other canine names that appear frequently included Melesinn (Melusine), Artus (Arthur), Venus, Fortuna and Turgk (Turk). Presumably the two named after fabrics Sattin (satin)

and Dammast (damask) must have had very smooth shiny fur. Some dogs, incidentally, were called after their owner's occupation. Thus, Stosel (Pestle) belonged to an apothecary, whilst Hemmerli (Little Hammer) belonged to a locksmith and Speichli (Little Spoke) to a wagoner.



The two most famous lovers of this period, Tristan and Isolde, each had their own dogs. In one version of the tale, Isolde had a lapdog named Petitcreiu, whilst Tristan had a loyal hunting hound named Huidan, who he had trained to remain silent during the couple's illicit meetings. Huidan, by the way, accidentally swallowed some of the couple's love potion, which resulted in him loving his master even more than he had before. If you named a dog Huidan, you could call to it: 'Huidan, seek!'

Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle specialises in animal history and is the author of several books including *Dogs in Medieval Manuscripts* (British Library), *The Dog Books: Dogs of Historical Distinction*, and *Medieval Pets* (Boydell & Brewer), among others.



# Postcard Dogs

Libby Hall

Libby Hall began collecting photographs of dogs in 1966, saving unwanted pictures from being discarded into dustbins or thrown on bonfires. Now her collection is one of the most famous and distinguished in the world and she has attracted what the *Telegraph Magazine* called a 'cult following'. In 2004, Libby published *Postcard Dogs*, and she has kindly given us permission to publish an extract from the book plus, of course, some examples from her collection of dog postcards.



## From the Introduction

At the turn of the last century a passion for postcard collecting raged through Europe and the United States. By 1910 hundreds of millions of cards were being sent through the post every year. Thirty years earlier photographs the size of visiting cards had been avidly collected and now a 'postal-card craze' replace that 'carte-de-visite mania'. Postcards had an even greater appeal than the carte-de-visite: they were much less expensive (a halfpenny or a penny each) and were available everywhere. A democracy of picture postcards had captured the imagination of a young century and, as the fashion for collecting grew, it became increasingly common to have family photographs printed as postcards. Studio photography had become more affordable and, with the arrival of the Kodak Brownie, more families were able to take their own photographs and have them processed into postcards.

When I first started searching postcard fairs for dogs, it was only for those private photographs that had been printed on postcard stock. But I was soon won over by some of the commercial cards. Wildly sentimental images that in a moderate medium might seem mawkish and unattractive, became something quite different when looked back at through a hundred intervening years. How could one resist a dog crying real tears while thinking of his master at the Front in World War One, or an Edwardian tea party given for a child's dog?

Dogs wearing clothes I still find unnerving, but caps, hats and the occasional pipe, have made their way into the collection. It seems these were irresistible accessories for dogs being subjected to the new wonders of photography.

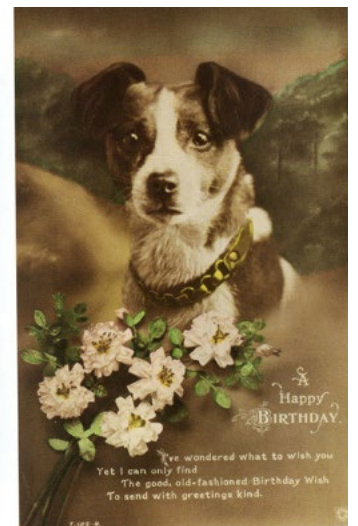
In many postcard photographs the same dog appears over and over again. These patient animals probably belonged to the photographer or a friend, as did many of the children who posed with the dogs. I have of course avoided any image where I felt the dog (or child!) was actually unhappy about posing - but there are many photographs included which clearly demonstrate Dog's long-suffering tolerance of Man's caprices.

The range of breeds portrayed in postcards of the period is not representative of the dogs people tended to own as pets. Though many of the popular breeds are there: terriers and collies, retrievers and pugs, dachshunds and spaniels... there is a disproportionate number of both borzois - as bored fashion accessories - and Newfoundland/St. Bernards. The passion for the latter - almost always shown with a small child - seems to have started with Landseer and found its ultimate manifestation with Nana in *Peter Pan*. There are hundreds of different images of children with these heroic gentle animals, though the number kept as pets would have been comparatively small.



Please note we made donations to two of Libby's favourite charities Compassion in World Farming and The Mayhew Animal Home in exchange for the rights to this serialisation.







# In Memoriam

The following few pages are devoted to a number of extremely moving and deeply personal remembrances for much-missed, much-loved canine family members. They vary in length (some short, some long) and content (some factual, some full of stories and reminisces), but they all contain a common element: they have been written from the heart.

We will be dedicating a tree for all the dogs mentioned here, and for any other Honey's fed dog who has died, hopefully with the Woodland Trust. I say 'hopefully' because the Woodland Trust have had some pandemic and security related issues in the last few weeks and have not been planting. However, paws crossed, it will be 'tree business as usual' before too long. If not, we will look for another charity.

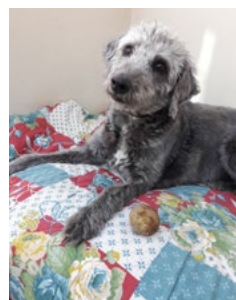
If you have lost a dog (even if it is some time ago) and would like him or her mentioned in the next newsletter please email me direct. I will also arrange a tree dedication.

Finally, if you are bereaved at the moment please accept my own heartfelt condolences.

With very warmest regards,

*Jonathan*

js@jonathanself.com



**LULU LASKEY**  
2011 – 2020

*Paula Laskey writes with great feeling about the family's beloved Lulu.*

One day my husband went to the village shop and he came back all excited because a litter of

Bedlington whippet puppies were being advertised for sale. We were looking for a playmate for our dog Peedee who himself was a Whiplington and around a year old at the time. There was only 2 puppies left, a boy and a girl. My husband wanted a little girl so he could call her Lulu and the following weekend we brought home a tiny bundle of grey fluff called Lulu. Lulu settled into her new home from day one. She was such a character with a huge personality. On her first night she played into the small hours with Peedee. It was lovely to see. Our family was now complete. She bonded very quickly with myself and our daughter Hayley but the strongest bond of all was with my husband or AKA Lulu's dad. Lulu lived life to the full. We live in a rural community so we have access to open fields and woods where Lulu could run and be free. She was so fast, running looked effortless for her. Sticks and balls were her passion. When my husband went walking with the dogs they would always use the same stick and at the end of each walk he would leave the stick leant up against the same tree. On the next walk Lulu would jump out of the car and go and get the stick for my husband so he could throw it for her. Occasionally Lulu would bring home a stray potato or sugar beet which she would play with until it fell to bits. It was a shock when Lulu became ill. She was only 9 years, not old for her breed. We wanted her to grow old with us and live a full, long, happy life but sadly her life was cut short. She was diagnosed

with an abdominal mass which was inoperable. We will love Lulu forever. She will always be in our thoughts and in our hearts. We miss Lulu more than words can say. Our lives are poorer without her. She was a gift from heaven, Our LITTLE ANGEL, Now safe in gods arms. Run Free Lulu and Rest in Peace  
xxx

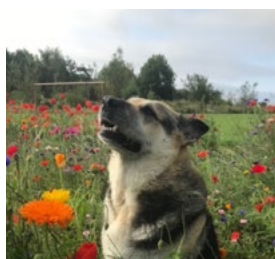


**RUBY BODMAN**  
2013 – 2020

**DELTA BODMAN**  
2010 - 2020

*Lisa Bodman has suffered two sad bereavements in the space of a few months.*

**Ruby** came to me in January 2020 as a rescue. She came from a good home and was a cuddle monster – a smiling, happy girl who loved to chase the cat. It took time, but she settled with her new sister Delta. Sadly, Ruby was diagnosed with pancreatitis. She had a fit and collapsed and it turned out she also had many other health issues including a brain tumour. She fought so well and never stopped smiling. Her favourite recipes were partridge and venison she believed that breakfast should be 5:30am as she couldn't wait! Ruby lost her fight last December. She only blessed my life for a short time but my heart is ripped apart. Ruby deserves to be remembered as such a special little angel.

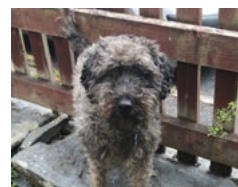


**Delta.** What can I say about Delta? She was simply amazing. I saw her on the rescue website before my 13yr old boxer, Tyi, passed and was taken with the

fact that she loved the beach. Tyi died suddenly and I said to myself: 'No more. Goodbyes are too hard.' Still, I contacted the rescue centre and volunteered to take Delta for walks. A few weeks later Delta was living with me, of course! People said Delta was lucky to be rescued by me but in truth Delta rescued me. She loved everybody and every animal. She had had a hard life: kept in a shed for breeding. It would have been understandable if she had hated humans but she was always happy and taught me to live life to the full. She loved ice cream! I knew our time would be limited, but she gave me the most fantastic two and a half years. One of her best friends was Cooper, our cat, and they used to go on walks together. She also loved lying outside watching the world go by. I should also mention that she was amazing with Ruby when we adopted her. She was the most special lady and I was blessed to be her mum, missed so badly.

**If there is a heaven, it's certain our animals are to be there. Their lives become so interwoven with our own, it would take more than an archangel to detangle them.**

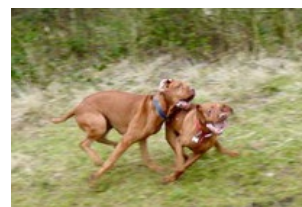
– Pam Brown



**JETTI**  
**WINTRINGHAM**  
2005 – 2020

*Esther Wintringham describes life with the much missed Jetti*

Jetti was one of a kind. Both his parents were first crosses and he was the only puppy in the litter. He came to us at just 6 weeks old, together with his mum who he was always trying to get to play with him, although, poor girl, she did not know how. About 18 months after Jetti arrived with us we also took on a Labrador, Buster, and the two became lifelong friends. When we were out for walks they would both look out for the other, although Jetti was always the boss. He would see other dogs off if he thought they were getting too friendly with Buster. He was a little dog with a huge heart who obviously thought he was much bigger than he really was. When Buster died, Jetti was absolutely gutted and mourned and mourned for him. When we still had the two of them we loved to go for walks in the woods. Suddenly we would hear a squeak. Jetti had scented a rabbit and he was off like a bullet out of a gun with Buster hard on his heels. If we went for a very long walk, he seemed to get extra energy and while we were sitting down, the dogs would be playing around, chasing each other as if we had just left the house. Latterly, when Jetti was the only dog left, and I, too, was on my own, we seemed to become almost like one. He would follow me around the house, sleeping on the landing at the top of the stairs if I was working upstairs. He was a little dog with a very big heart. If he saw a small child or a puppy he would get down on his tummy and invite them to play with him at their level. Needless to say he is more than missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



**MONTY**  
**COOKE**  
2000 – 2014

**REO COOKE**  
2002 – 2014

*Hazel Cooke remembers two special dogs lost many years ago but never forgotten.*

Monty (in the blue collar) and Reo (in the red collar) were our much loved Hungarian Vizslas. We lost both of them in 2014. To tell you about Monty first. He made it to 14, which is a great age, and he enjoyed life right up to the end – despite losing a rear leg as a result of osteosarcoma in 2010. Indeed, he was a fit dog and coped so well with his disability it was something we humans could all learn from. Monty was a beautiful dog with an aristocratic air about him. He took his position in the family very seriously, especially when it came to chastising Reo for taking off on one of his frequent walkabouts around the neighbourhood. Life was very much on his terms, he would play when it suited, cuddle when it suited and return from his walk when it suited! But his loyalty was second to none. It was six months after we lost Monty that we lost Reo. He was only 12 – it was much too soon and a terrible shock coming so soon after losing Monty. We were overwhelmed with sadness. Reo was the heart of our family – only truly



happy when close to us. His favourite spot was sitting on your knee despite his size! Where Monty led Reo was happy to follow but he was very much the naughty younger brother (well, nephew actually) and if there was trouble created he would be in the centre of it. Full of affection, full of play he just loved people, when he and the children were little he was just so happy to be part of their dressing up games and it was not unusual to see him being wheeled around in the dolls pram.



**FERN  
BROMWICH  
2007-2020**

*Jackie Bromwich (who may readers will know as a longstanding and highly valued member of the Honey's Health Team), reflects on a truly amazing canine life.*

Farewell Fern. Just before Christmas, we had to say goodbye to one of our wonderful Honey's office dogs, Fern. Fern, a border collie, was a very successful agility dog, and had a fantastic career, despite having bilateral hip replacements, achieving the top level, Grade 7 and championship status. She lived with the rest of the collie gang, and her mum, and kept all the pack in order, and also worked sheep on a regular basis on the family farm. She made a guest appearance in series 11 of Channel 4's Supernet series, showing how well she had done following her epic surgery. Fern was a huge, larger than life character, she always made her presence felt when she was in the office, and we will all miss her very much.



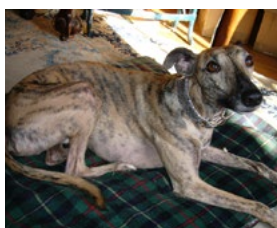
**TITO  
OSTLER  
2007 – 2020**

**LUCI  
OSTLER  
2006 - 2020**

*Jane Dunn Ostler mourns Tito, who converted the family from cat people to dog and cat people, and Luci, his best friend.*

**Tito.** We had been a family passionately attached to Siamese and Oriental cats so when it came to getting a dog for the first time I chose a cat-like dog, a whippet - beautiful, graceful, short-haired, tender-hearted and non-territorial. I was so new to dog-ownership I didn't initially think of adopting a rescue dog (our subsequent 2 were rescue dogs) so Tito was picked out as the fattest fawn of a litter in Devon and we drove him back to Bath to start our adventure together. My husband and I waited on him hand and foot, the best raw food from the start. He slept in our room with us and lived like a prince. He grew into the most quietly confident dog our vet had ever seen. He knew he was the centre of the universe and didn't have to assert his superiority, was just gentlemanly and friendly to every dog, child and human who came his way. Tito barely

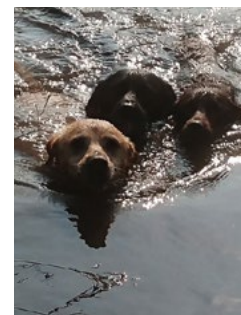
barked and would have welcomed a burglar with as much hospitable good grace as he did his family. His favourite way to relax was to lie stretched out and upside down on a sofa with his legs in the air, a classic pose for running dogs I know. It went without saying he was at his most breath taking when running. 'Poetry in motion' is a phrase coined for a whippet at full stretch, speeding in joyful wide loops round a field then back to flop at our feet. He didn't care for too much exercise, though, and once on a long weekend walk along the Ridgeway with my husband and friends he decided he'd rather dodge the second day and come home with me to his sofa. Of course, unlike a human male film star, he had not the slightest idea of just how handsome he was with his lean muscled body, blonde colouring and deep, inky eyes. Having been healthy all his life he suddenly developed a fast growing cancer last autumn that poleaxed him in just 10 days. Our wonderful vet, Edward, came to the house and put him to sleep as he lay on his favourite sofa. Edward then stayed and talked to us as we stroked his beautiful athlete's body for the last time. Tito was a prince among dogs and we are so grateful for almost 14 years of his devotion and loyalty and charm. With him in our lives it was impossible not to laugh and be glad. Goodbye sweet friend.



**Luci.** This darling whippet came to us in 2008 as a rescue from Ross on Wye when he was about 2. He had been an unhappy and

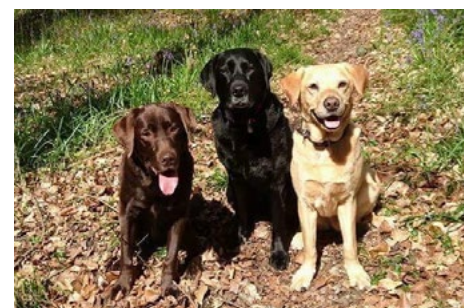
abused 'Guy' so we renamed him Luci (short for Lucio - my husband wanted Tuscan names for our whippets because they appeared in Uccello paintings as small hunting dogs). We already had our lovely Tito and felt he needed a friend and running mate. His Labrador friends didn't understand running fast for the sheer joy of it, just as Tito thought swimming in canals and rivers was quite bonkers. So another whippet was in order. Luci was chosen for us because we were writers and always at home. He was terrified of being left and having been caged all his life couldn't bear being shut in, so the kind, eccentric whippet-lover who had rescued him said he needs you. He jumped in our car and home he came to Bath. In his middle age he and we moved to Hungerford. Luci ruined our social life but completely stole our hearts. There was never a sweeter more heart-wrenchingly tender little dog. He also had a secret. He was as superb and beautiful a sprinter as Usain Bolt. Watching him run brought tears to our eyes. He was always faster than any other dog and so extraordinarily graceful in action. Perhaps Nijinsky, name of both ballet dancer and horse, might have suited him better. In fact we sometimes called him Fotherington-Tomas - 'Hullo clouds, hullo sky' - as he had that Molesworth character's innocence and sweetness, while skipping around the garden. He and Tito both died this year, but Luci died in the early summer in our first lockdown. From a disseminated, but slower cancer. And again our wonderful vet Edward came out to our home. Again in his quiet way he said just what we needed to hear. Luci was on his beanbag in the sun (he was a great sun lover) by the open door to a garden in early summer bloom and Edward

just quietly said, 'He goes from one paradise to another'. Luci was a dog who needed extra care but he rewarded us so many times with the beauty of his soul. Rescue dogs sometimes have that extra layer of gratitude and devotion and we are so grateful that we were chosen to care for him and reap the rewards of this very special little dog.



**COCO (2006 – 2020), POPPY (2006 – 2019) AND JACK (2009 – 2018) VIATGE**

*Lynne Viatge writes movingly about three beloved canine family members – all sadly lost in a space of just two years.*



Chocolate coloured Coco and her black litter mate, Poppy, arrived, aged 9 weeks, in 2006 and could not have been more different. Where Poppy was a gregarious, confident, often obstinate, strong character of robust health, Coco was her timid shadow, not interested in other dogs and people, and in complete awe of her 'big sister'. We didn't expect much of Coco at first - just let her choose her own way - but a big personality emerged; always shy and quick to flee any new or strange circumstances, dogs or people (yet oblivious to fireworks), but the first to defend her humans against perceived threats such as charging swans or out of control dogs. She had the usual great Lab sense of humour with hide and seek being a favourite (humans hiding from dogs), as was 'this little piggy' where she would try and freeze and brave it out, but as soon as you got to the fourth piggy, her tail would quiver and she would hold her breath. She was a massive forager and loved her 'hunts' for dried liver in the garden and, needless to say, swimming, beach, woods and snow activities were heaven. A love of food in a Labrador doesn't even need to be mentioned but all thrived on Honey's raw diet. When she was five, after a couple of weeks on Metacam for arthritis which she had suddenly developed, she collapsed with a perforated duodenal ulcer and nearly died one August Bank holiday weekend and we nearly lost her. It was touch and go for weeks and a terrible time for us all. I saw that the light had gone out of her eyes and she was giving up when we were allowed brief visits and insisted that Poppy joined us on the next visit, although the staff were not keen. As soon as she saw Poppy in the micro garden at the back of the surgery, her demeanour changed immediately and the vet nurse was amazed at the difference in her behaviour around her sibling. We discharged her shortly afterwards and she took months to recover but, against



all the odds, she made it. Then Jack came along - a traumatised yellow rescue of about six and she took to "motherhood" instantly - loving him but also letting him know when he stepped out of line. Poppy definitely had competition for her affections. She worshipped both and Jack thrived under her watch. In 2018, when they were 12 (and Jack around 9), Poppy started to show signs of sunset dementia and this progressed rapidly. The once strong and confident dog, became an anxious wreck, fearful of any noise in the house and quite



violent in her manifestation of it - climbing on to our laps, pawing forcefully and panting, and you could feel her heart beating out of her chest. Fireworks became a terror for us all because of their effect on her. It upset Jack and Coco and they grew

even closer as we desperately tried medical and alternative interventions to reduce Poppy's fear. And then Jack collapsed in November 2018 with an inoperable spinal haemorrhage. I bargained for about a week with him mainly crated and on strong anti-inflammatories but it was no use. He was put down at home, happily munching on dried liver as he went to sleep, in the presence of his sisters. The pain of losing a dog who had developed so much in the three short years we were lucky enough to own him was immense, compounded by the fact that we had to let Poppy go in February 2019. A webcam was the final decider. We and the vets thought she was wasting because of age but when we put a webcam in and could see her for the three hours she was left alone each day, on maximum Valium dosage, she was frantically pacing, falling behind furniture, distressed out of her mind and clearly upsetting Coco who would be watching from her bed. It wasn't fair to bargain any more. So the unthinkable happened - we were left with 12.5 year old Coco, the delicate, fearful, dependent dog. It was never meant to be that way as she needed her siblings so much and she more or less immediately went blind and mainly deaf. We also moved home over that period and worried that it would make things worse for her but she settled into retirement and enjoyed privileges her siblings never did - sleeping in the humans' bed, getting a nightly cheese snack after her dinner (her dad is French, after all) and "helping" to feed the ducks at the bottom of the garden each morning, mainly by Hoovering up supposedly accidentally dropped bread bits. Her hearing went and her mobility reduced to a hobble around her garden a few times a day but she was happy, still fully continent and compos mentis and loved her routines, her awareness of feeding times as acute as it ever was. And then on Christmas Day of the memorable 2020, aged 14.5, she unexpectedly collapsed. We spent the day in a freezing, packed emergency vet car park without food or drink (not allowed in because of COVID) as they ran tests. We were told to

expect the worst so spent the day in tears but unexpectedly were allowed to take her home that evening with a provisional diagnosis of a liver cancer or infection. Boxing Day was up and down as she faded and rallied - one minute she was cold and barely breathing in her bed and I indicated that she was dying (in many ways preferable to us, being at home) but I would then rattle the bread bin to make a sandwich and she would appear in the doorway, draped in blankets, like the Ghost of Christmas Past, making me jump out of my skin, expecting to go and feed the ducks. We had to give up on the 27th, our bargaining at an end. We felt she was hanging on for us because she knew we would be dogless - always so resilient and loyal. We had to do it at the vet, our own this time, so we were allowed in, and where she would usually be rigid with fear in the surgery, she pointedly licked our hands three times each, lying in her own bed which we had taken in with us. It was so strikingly unusual for her that we chose to interpret it as her acknowledgment that she was ready to go. We have had her cremated and will scatter her in the dunes of Constantine Bay with her siblings where she spent so many happy holidays. To say they leave a gap and incredible pain, as well as a million happy memories is, of course, the understatement of the century. RIP Poppy, Jack and Coco.



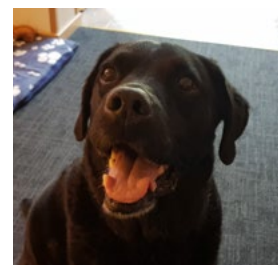
#### COOPER NASH 2005 – 2020

*Samantha Nash describes with love Cooper, a cherished Romanian rescue dog, who joined her family for the last seven months of his life.*

Cooper came to us only a relatively short time ago in May of 2020, an old boy of around 15, travelling all the way from a kill shelter in Romania where he was dirty, beaten and starving. Such a loving boy from the moment we met, we knew he may not have long left on this earth but gave us 7 wonderful months of love and amusement before going to sleep for the final time. Full of personality, he was chatty, cheeky, affectionate and joyful. His wonky tail was always wagging, the valiant effort he would take to eat anything presented to him despite only have four very broken down teeth, his 7-o'clock-on-the-dot mad moment each day of pacing the floor and talking to anyone who would listen and following me to the kitchen in the hope of food no matter what time of day or night. Cooper is so very sadly missed and the house is now quiet without him. His big sister, Kira, remains with us, also a rescue but very different in personality, she seems to be sad and struggling to understand where he has gone. We are so lucky to have been blessed with such beautiful dogs and will keep Cooper in our hearts always.

**The bond with a dog is as lasting as the ties of this earth can ever be.**

**– Konrad Lorenz**

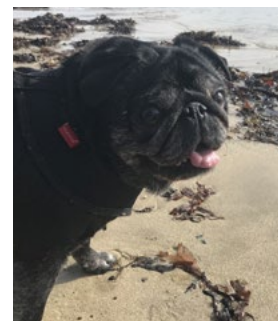


#### RILEY BRYDON 2010 – 2020

*Please remember Riley. As Amanda Brydon explains below he was clearly a wonderful, wonderful dog.*

He was a very happy dog full of mischief and love, always there to please. He loved life. Every day was an adventure. He became poorly last year and we were told that he unfortunately had cancer, we lost him on the Monday before Christmas. From the photo, you will see what a handsome dog he was.

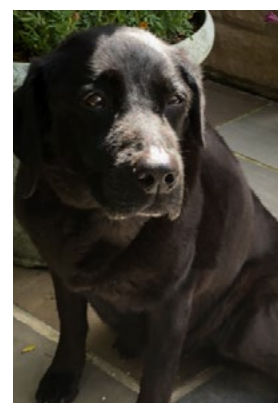
**Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.**  
**– Anatole France**



#### DOCTOR IRVING DALE 2009 – 2020

*Doctor Irving's human-companion, Beverley Dale, sums up her much missed friend in a few, deeply felt words.*

A wonderful companion and happy little soul who brought joy to everyone he encountered. Deeply loved and forever missed.



#### MILLY VJESTICA 2008 – 2020

#### NELLY VJESTICA 2005 – 2019

*Milena Vjestica has asked us all to remember two much missed and beloved members of her family: Milly and Nelly.*

Milly



Nelly





**KARRIE FIRBANK  
2005 – 2020**

*Karrie was a few days short of her sixteenth birthday when she died last year. Corrinne Firbank explains what a wonderful dog she was and how much she will be missed.*

Karrie the cocker spaniel was born in April 2006 in the north east coastal town of Redcar. My good friend had bred our other dog Tilly who was then two and a half years old and we had been thinking of getting another pup as a companion for her. We were only ringing my friend to see what her plans were but when she mentioned she had a new litter I went to see them. I immediately fell in love with Karrie, the prettiest little red cocker I had ever seen. When we went to collect her a couple of weeks later, she sat quietly with me in the car for the journey home, making no fuss at all just cuddling in and sleeping. She was a lovely puppy and became part of the family really quickly. That's not to say she wasn't naughty at times – for example, she acquired a taste for the cane chairs in the conservatory! Fortunately she grew out of it before too much damage was done. She loved water of any kind, whether it was a muddy puddle, a river or a bath. Our walks would often be punctuated by 'Ohh Karrie, noooooo!!' However she would always manage to find some river or pool and would leap into it or just lie down in the muddiest puddle around, with what can only be described as a smile on her face. Karrie always treated our cat Tink, a tiny tortoiseshell and white fluffy cat with respect and seemed to miss her when she died aged 17. Our current cat Crocky would often play with Karrie when Karrie was a bit younger and both were gentle with each other whilst having fun. We have always kept a few hens in the garden and Karrie always got along with them and never chased them. We have lots of photos of her sharing a water bowl in the summertime with Gloria or Doris and several other 'chuckaloos'. Karrie had many adventures over the years and she really enjoyed her trips in the motorhome and had a great time in France despite her mobility having reduced a little by then. The height of her achievements was being made Honeys dog of the month in summer 2020 - an accolade she really deserved, although I am sure we all think that about our doggy companions. Unfortunately, due to a neurological problem, she began to find it difficult to coordinate her back legs and couldn't walk far. We bought her a little harness to support her and she soon learned to shoot along. The speed and vigour with which she wagged her tail was amazing to behold – it never stopped! Last year was a bad year for all sorts of reasons, but one good thing was that we had to work from home which meant that we could spend more time with Karrie and our other dog Amba who is two and a half and who was a good friend for Karrie, keeping her young at heart and keeping her company. Our darling Karrie left this world as she lived in it, quietly and without fuss. She was a great dog, a lovely character and a companion that never complained or refuse to take part in any of our activities, in fact her enthusiasm for life was very uplifting. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten.



**JOSIE LAWSON  
2007 – 2020**

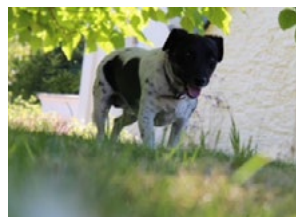
*Krystyna Lawson writes movingly about Josie, aka Miss Grumpy Knickers, very sadly lost late last year.*

Josie was known as Miss Grumpy Knickers by the family. We took her in aged eight months. She was a funny soul who always had this look of being down trodden, yet somehow ruled the roost! She was a mix of collie, Labrador and possibly – according to our vet maybe of bull dog! She certainly had the energy of a collie right up to the end – never losing her love of playing and chasing. She adored children and was amazing with them. She even kept the cats in line! Our two kittens are now racing around the house, having cat fights without her stern snap at them, you could almost sense she was telling them to sit down and behave. We still sense her with us when we do our walks and on Christmas Day we did the last long walk we had done with her in her memory. She is buried up the garden with our other pets and has a beautiful weeping crab apple tree on her grave. Josie we miss you.



**WINSTON FLATT  
2010 – 2020**

*Di Flatt offers a few, heartfelt reflections on Winston, who has left a large gap in her family's lives.*



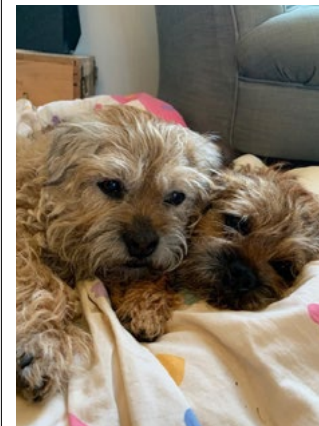
We are very much coming to terms with losing Winston. All a little unexpected and he has left a very large gap in our household. Jack Russells can be angels and they can be pirates. Winston could definitely be a pirate!!!! Bundles of fun with a hint of mischiefousness!!! He spent all his days running around the Quantocks and the woodlands around them ... generally where he got up to the most mischief!!! Sadly, we have a much quieter house without him.



**LACY SMITH  
2008 - 2020**

*Lacy Smith, who hails from America, is remembered with great love and affection by her human companion, Gerry.*

Lacy and her sisters were found in a cardboard box on a dirt road in Georgia (USA) in 2008. Fortunately they all ended up at the local humane society and subsequently a fantastic foster home. After the loss of my Labrador Breezy I drove up from Florida with my foster dog to have a look at her and of course she was soon jumping into the back of my car for the journey home. We had many adventures in Florida, New Orleans, New Mexico and Las Vegas before I returned to the UK and Lacy stayed in another fantastic foster home while awaiting her health certificate so that I could bring her over. She seemed unphased by the long flight and quickly settled into life in the UK, enjoying the cooler weather and exploring the countryside. Most of all she loved long walks on the South Downs and the pubs which we visited on the way where she was very popular. She liked to stand up at the bar and high five with the bartender for treats. She led a full and active life until she was 12 but then started to have some serious health issues which led to a couple of visits to Fitzpatrick and fortunately finding an awesome holistic vet who recommended Honey's. She responded remarkably well to treatment and for the remainder of her life she was happy, active and really enjoying her food. She was expected to have many more months but unfortunately she suffered a stroke. She is greatly missed by many people who knew her and helped her on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as her canine friends.



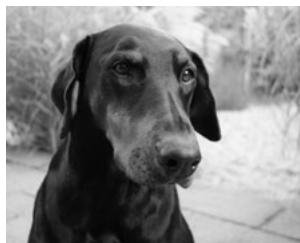
**OSCAR WATSON  
2006 – 2020**

*Dr Amy Watson (a valued member of the Honey's Health Team) describes how Oscar came into her life what a wonderful dog he was.*

Oscar arrived in my life as a small ball of noisy vomiting fluff all the way back from his family breeder and gave me over 14 years of joy. He converted many he met to the joys of border terriers and was the ultimate teacher. He helped me teach vet nurses how to squeeze anal glands (him being the resigned, if rather unglamorous assistant) and trim nails as well as how to make a dog sick (he was clearly a Labrador in a former life and nothing was not game for being tried as a food); he taught my children that they could love a dog unconditionally though, being far too soft for his own good, he didn't teach them there were boundaries as to what you could get away with most dogs. He taught me that there is little love better than that of your own dog. He went on road trips with vet nurse friends of mine to visit their families, getting himself comfy at a rate of knots in new homes. He helped matchmake and ultimately arrange a marriage for another (it turns out dog walks are super first dates, but a challenge if you don't have a dog!), he got me through heartbreaks - the death of my father and grandmother, the arrival of a future



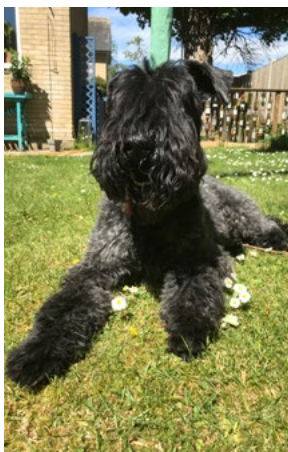
husband and his dog, then two children and one miscarriage. He had his portrait beautifully painted by a BP portrait artist of the year - who doesn't paint dogs. But then he met Oscar. He was a rubbish ratter, a greedy piglet, a dog who wore his heart on his sleeve and has broken mine by dying without me in my dotage and on my last legs with him. I had planned for him to go when I was on my Zimmer frame. But then, don't we all assume until the bitter end that our dogs will live until we die?



**TAZZ  
CARCARY  
2013 – 2019**

*Paula Carcary writes beautifully about the special relationship she shared with her beloved Doberman, Tazz.*

Back in April 2013, Roxy, my first dog and Doberman died a couple of weeks shy of her tenth birthday. My life was very tumultuous back then for several reasons and losing Roxy made me realise all too late what I had lost in this fantastically easy, gentle and loyal girl who had always been there for me through many upheavals. Enter Tazz. She came from a recommended breeder and I brought her home in July – a beautiful black and tan bundle. It would be fair to say that Tazzie was not for the faint hearted. She was not aggressive or bad tempered in any way – quite the opposite – she was super affectionate and simply HAD to be with me all the time. She was my shadow! So far as she was concerned everyone else I knew took second place. Tazz took some physical management as anyone who has lived with a large, fast dog that likes to chase deer will know! Walks had to be planned like military manoeuvres to avoid trouble. She was very sensitive, too. Bird song or, say, a car door being closed a little too loudly, could terrify her unexpectedly. Having said this, she was extremely playful and had buckets of personality. 'Tazziness' is what I called it. Sadly, after failed emergency surgery and a 24-hour vigil it was clear that there was no return for my girl. I held her tightly, I wanted her last memory to be that of being in my arms as she was put to sleep. I collected her later that day for our last car ride to a tiny pet chapel run by a local animal sanctuary, where she was laid in her blankets for a last goodbye before a private cremation. She was only six. The one consolation to my loss being that a year earlier I had welcomed another Doberman, Jet, into the family. If Tazz was like a comet, Jet provided comfort and focus. Dogs are my priority in life. I feel so incredibly lucky to have had the love of four Dobermans. To those who don't know the breed, they are a gentle, loyal, loving, giving, kind, forgiving, funny and caring – in short, wonderful dogs with whom to share your life. I would pick one over a human companion time and time again!



**MULLIGAN  
SPRATT-  
DAWSON/  
ASHWELL  
2010 – 2020**

*Philip and Jo have asked us to remember their wonderful (and very handsome) Kerry Blue Terrier. Much missed by the whole family including his 'brother' Cassidy.*

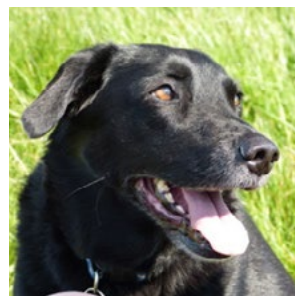


**QUINCY  
HATTON  
2007 – 2020**

*Quincy was a loving, gentle whippet who won everyone's hearts (and overcame his own anxieties) as Sue Hatton explains.*

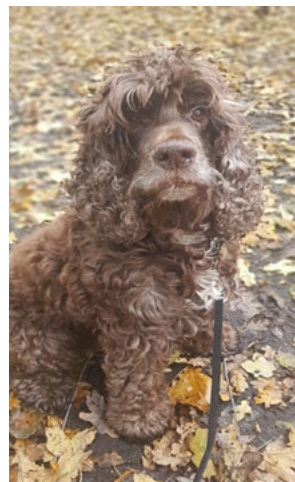
Please remember Quincy, my beautiful whippet. He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 passed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. He loved people and children – so much so that I think he must have thought he was a human himself – because he was not very interested in other dogs. He was a brave dog, who worked hard to overcome his own anxieties. For example, he struggled with car sickness but loved coming out in the car. Through perseverance (not just his!) he conquered this (he became the best passenger ever) and we took many happy trips and holidays – several as far as Scotland – with Quincy onboard. He hated it when we went out and left him at home alone, but he conquered this fear as well. Indeed, it only returned in his last few months, when he was older and poorly. He absolutely loved playing ball. I had to use a ball thrower as I couldn't really throw it far enough without one. It was a joy to see him take off at high speed; but I never could get him to bring the ball back! He was happy for me to go after him when he would drop the ball for me to throw again.

He loved his duvet and sleeping. In fact, he loved it a lot! He ended up with four beds as he liked to change from chair to sofa to bean bag to cosy soft doggy bed. He was often to be found under the duvet – often with legs akimbo. On the sofa he liked to cuddle up and hide his head behind my back! I miss him more than I can say. He was always there when I got up in the morning and always ready to go for a walk every day. My family all live a distance away and some I haven't seen for well over a year during this difficult time. I plan to welcome another dog. Not to replace my Quincy, of course, but as an essential addition to my home and life.



**BESS  
CREATON  
2005 – 2021**

*Please remember Bess with love. She died on 14th January 2021. She is missed more than words can say*



**LARNI  
AITKIN  
2008 – 2021**

*Please remember Larni Aitkin, a beautiful, joyful, loving cocker-spaniel who is greatly missed by all who knew her.*



**MAGGIE BISHOP  
2009 – 2021**

*Sandra Bishop remembers Maggie, who sadly died a few days after her 13th birthday on 17th January. Deeply mourned.*

Maggie came to live with us just before her second birthday. We knew her well as I had groomed her from a pup for her previous owner. She was a lively and enthusiastic Cocker Spaniel who wanted to be included in **absolutely everything**, and she fitted into our family perfectly. After discovering Honey's, 'chicken wing' soon became her two favourite words! At the age of 7, she had an emergency operation at the Animal Health Trust. She had Intervertebral disc disease and temporarily lost the use of all four legs. Maggie made a good recovery and continued to live life to the full, enjoying her walks and holidaying with us all around the UK. She would spend many happy hours at our local nature reserve, chasing squirrels, rolling in anything smelly and eating things that the foxes left! Her Spaniel nose meant that she frequently disappeared on our walks, only to return covered in prickles, twigs and burrs! Sadly, Maggie became very unwell in January and the kindest thing was to let her go peacefully. Her squeaky toys are now silent and crumbs go unnoticed under the kitchen table. She was a little dog but such a big part of our lives and we miss her so much xx

**Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.  
– Roger Caras**





**SASHA  
NICHOLLS  
2009– 2020**

*Linda (who many readers will know from her invaluable work as a key member of the Honey's Health Team) writes movingly about the very wonderful Sasha*

We have always had at least one Labrador in the family and after losing our lovely Bonnie in August 2017 we really felt the large Labrador hole in our lives. So, in the spring of 2018, we started half looking around. We already had a young collie so we didn't want a puppy, and knowing how difficult it is for older dogs to find new forever homes we focused on dogs of nine and old. In May I happened to see an advert for Sasha, aged nine, and recently diagnosed diabetic. I applied and after a home check we were approved. Sasha had been born to be a puppy machine, and after a fair few litters was passed on as a pet and ended up living in quite bad conditions. Then her Angel heard about her and brought to live with her. Sasha's Angel loved her dearly, but her own health wasn't good and when Sasha was diagnosed diabetic she just couldn't manage the twice daily injections needed. The wonderful charity Labradors in Need stepped in and the rest is history. The look of joy on Sasha's face every time I picked up her lead and said 'come walkies' never faded. She simply couldn't believe she was going to run and play in the fields AGAIN! Once she had been spayed, lost 15kg, and gradually become fit again she joined in everything the collies were doing. From the beach and the river, to fields and woods, she always bounded along with excitement, still coming on our regular two hours walks with ease right up to the week she left us. Every day was an adventure for Sasha and she made up for all the wasted years with a huge enthusiasm for everything and everyone. At home she was happy to snuggle up and sleep dreaming of her next adventure. Or hop up for belly rubs on the sofa. She was a gentle and kind girl, happy for the other dogs to snuggle with her and always happy to have a wag with anyone she met. She gave us so much love and we felt so honoured to have been allowed to share our lives with her. Sadly her time with us was cut short one morning after a very short illness, but we are so happy that we had those two and a half years to share with her. We have so many happy memories of how this special girl changed all of our lives, and we like to think she knew how very much we loved her. Run free my beautiful Sasha. Xxxxx

**Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.**  
– Anatole France



**FRANKIE  
LACEY  
2005 – 2021**

*Vicky Lacey remembers her shadow – the lovely Frankie – who only a few weeks before her passing was reviewing shampoos for Honey's.*

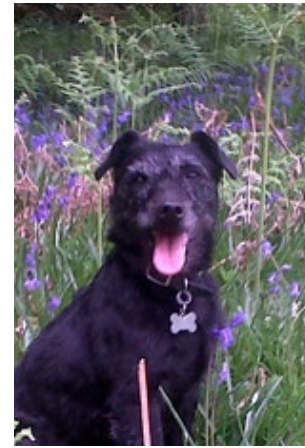
Frankie had a kind and beautiful soul. We rescued her from a rehoming shelter as a companion for our much loved Labrador. Little did we know that she would very quickly become my shadow – never leaving my side. Frankie was a much loved member of the family and my best friend for fifteen years. She often sat and watched me while I was working, waiting for a stroke or cuddle. When she was young she loved to run and chase a ball. Later in life she discovered a love of rolling in fox muck (much to the disgust of our young collie). Frankie is sorely missed. We have so many fond memories of her. We were lucky that she chose us as her family.



**MAJOR  
GOLDSBOROUGH  
2012 – 2021**

Major came into our lives at eight weeks old. He was a lovely puppy, playful, full of mischief, with tons of energy and a huge personality. At one he developed Polymyositis and we thought we could lose him he was so unwell. After many tests and various medications, however, our vet managed to stabilize his condition and get it under control. This enabled him to enjoy life to the full once more, which he certainly did. Whilst he had quarterly monitoring via blood tests, he was never afraid of vets and he was loved by them all. In 2017 we noticed Major wasn't his usual bouncy self and on closer examination we realised his eyes were slightly cloudy and he couldn't see properly. It turned out that he had cataracts in both eyes and surgery was performed within days of examining him. He had two new lenses fitted and whilst he took longer than most dogs to recover (due to his Polymyositis) he was back up and to his lively self within a few months. He became very poorly again in December last year and after various medications and treatments he was referred to a consultant who diagnosed a pseudomonas infection and inflammatory bowel disease. He received extensive treatment at the local veterinary hospital and came home to us on Christmas Eve. Sadly, on Christmas Day, Major's condition deteriorated and he also lost his sight completely! We went back to the hospital on Boxing Day where he was cared for but unfortunately his condition did not improve and on 29<sup>th</sup> December we had to make the hardest decision and let him go as we couldn't

let him suffer anymore and without his sight his quality of life would have been significantly reduced. We were all with him as he slipped away peacefully. Despite his setbacks, Major lived life to the full and was a happy and active dog who cherished every second with his family. He particularly loved his walks in the woods, then coming home and curling up on the sofa and having lots of cuddles. We all miss him terribly, but he will live in our hearts forever. Run free, Major x



**MUPPET  
PERRY  
2004 – 2021**

*Louisa Perry asks us all to remember her trusted and beloved friend, Muppet, who sadly died at the start of this year.*

I had Muppet for 16 years (seen in his youth below), he was a trusted friend who lived up to the Patterdale reputation. He was ferociously tenacious, independent and wilful. I miss him terribly.

**If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.**

– Will Rogers



## Honey's Health Team at your service

A quick reminder that Honey's Health Team is at your service and also at the service of your family and friends. Our vets, vet nurses and nutritionists are happy to offer unlimited advice and information free of charge and there is no need to be a customer. Please just call or email. All part of the Honey's service.



# Cathedral cats

Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle

Some American researchers (who clearly had nothing better to do) decided last year to investigate whether cat lovers were more or less likely to attend a place of worship. The results were unequivocal: 'There is a strong, negative association between worship attendance and cat ownership.' Apparently, some cat lovers saw their cats as 'god substitutes', whilst others felt that a feline relationship replaced the benefits of joining a faith community. What makes this especially interesting is the long association cats have with churches and, in particular, cathedrals.



Hodge

Late last year Southwark Cathedral gained a new resident: a large black and white British shorthair male cat named Hodge. The feline was introduced to the congregation after the Choral Eucharist one day in early December, having spent a few months getting his bearings. He has his own Twitter account (@HodgeTheCat) and when the cathedral is closed, he is cared for by the Vergers and the Dean (who describes himself as a 'friend of Hodge the Cathedral Cat' in his own Twitter account). Updates are regularly posted. One day a video of him lounging on a brocade cope, another of him clambering over the choir stalls in the middle of live-streamed services.



Hodge follows on in the pawprints of Doorkins Magnificat, the previous Cathedral Cat. Doorkins, a stray tabby, turned up at the Cathedral's south west door in December 2008 and decided to make it her home. She quickly became a firm favourite with visitors. Any qualms about her presence in hallowed spaces were quashed by the Dean, who declared that she was an asset, bringing people to the

Cathedral, and held in great affection by all. Doorkins cheerfully snoozed through a visit by the Queen, and I once found her sleeping happily on a chair near the altar. Doorkins memorabilia (calendars, magnets, Christmas baubles and a children's book of her life) are sold by the cathedral's shop. A carved stone corbel inside the cathedral, which replaced a damaged one, was carved with her features. In 2019, however, she retired to the home of one of the cathedral's staff and passed away in September 2020. A service of thanksgiving was held in her honour, broadcast live to the world.



Although Southwark Cathedral may be famous for having a resident cat, it is by no means alone in this honour. In fact, one would be hard pressed to find an English cathedral WITHOUT a cat. Norwich has Budge, Durham has Badger and Wells has Pangur. A previous incumbent at Wells was Louis, a large ginger cat who was generally found in a wicker basket in the gift shop. In 2015, aged seventeen, Louis decided to show her claws. As the victim's spokesperson reported: 'This dangerous, semi-feral cat pounced like a wild lion in the jungle on to my dog Millie's head.' Many cathedrals have multiple cats. Salisbury, has two, one belonging to the dean and one to the vergers. Not to be outdone there are four in Canterbury – often seen rushing around and getting in the way during live streamed services.



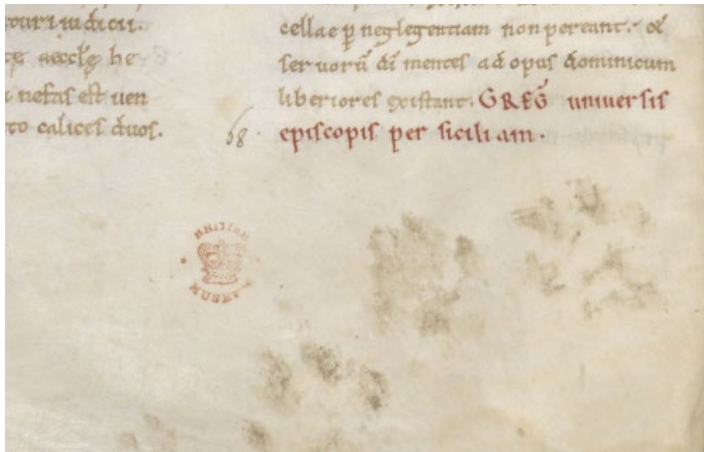
Some ecclesiastical cats can cause even greater mayhem. In the 1980s Westminster Abbey was under the care of Biggles, who would regularly sharpen his claws on the high altar and once savaged a police constable's trousers (for which he received an official warning from the Metropolitan Police). Nor is such chaos necessarily confined to the cloister. Pips the church cat of All Saints Church, Ilkeston in

Derbyshire, is a career criminal in the making, with a fondness for running across the organ pipes, meowing loudly during wedding and baptisms, and jumping on coffins during funeral services (she has been banned from the latter).

In Ireland the most famous cathedral for cats is probably St Canice's in Kilkenny. In the fourteenth century, one Alice Kyteler and her large, black, fluffy cat (name unknown, but believed at the time to be a demon incubus) were put on trial *in absentia* for sorcery. A possibly descendant of the cat, Calcifer, resided in the cathedral until 2019 and was well known for its mousing skills... often practiced during services!

When did the first cat move into a cathedral? History does not relate. However, from 1305 to 1467 Exeter Cathedral was paying 13 pennies a quarter to the 'custors [cathedral employees] and the cat' (*custoribus et cato*), with the account entry sometimes stating that the payments were for the 'custors FOR the cat' (*pro cato*). One assumes that the resident cat needed extra food over and above what he or she was catching. Between 1363 and 1366, incidentally, the payments were doubled to 26 pennies a quarter, perhaps because the cat had an assistant or maybe it was a performance related bonus.





A 12th-century copy of Gregory the Great, *Registrum epistolarum*, from the cathedral priory of St Andrew, Rochester: Royal MS 6 C X, f. 19v.

The current resident cathedral cat at Exeter is Stapledon, fittingly named after Walter de Stapledon, a notable early fourteenth-century bishop of Exeter, who employed a number of cats on the cathedral's official payroll. So keen on cats were the clergy at Exeter Cathedral that in the sixteenth century they had a cat hole – the medieval equivalent to a cat flap – carved into the wooden door below the astronomical clock.

Evidence of the clerical connection to cats is to be found in the pages of many medieval manuscripts. These are frequently littered with the paw prints of cats who either smudged the ink or jumped on open folios with mucky paws. Perhaps the ultimate indignity was recorded by a scribe at the monastery of Deventer in the Netherlands in 1420 who furiously wrote a colophon on a damaged page, accompanied by a drawing of cat and a hand with a finger pointing towards the accused feline. The text provided a warning to all who might leave their books open at night: 'Here is nothing missing, but a cat urinated on this during a certain night. Cursed be the pesky cat that urinated over this book during the night in Deventer and because of it many others too. And beware well not to leave open books at night where cats can come.'

Cats have, by the way, achieved even greater eminence than residence in a cathedral. I am speaking, of course, of the Vatican. The most famous papal cat in history belonged to Pope Leo XII during the 1820s. A large grey and red cat with black stripes called Micetto (Italian for kitten), he was born in the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican itself and could often be spotted under the folds of the white papal robes. On Leo XII's death, Micetto was bequeathed to the French ambassador, François-René, vicomte de Chateaubriand, who was a great cat fancier. Micetto returned with Chateaubriand to Paris, where visitors would thrill at the chance to meet 'the Pope's cat'. The most recent papal cat lover was Benedict XVI, who was cruelly denied a cat during his tenure in the Vatican. He often stopped to pet cats he met in the street and one once followed him into his residence, to which a Swiss Guards is reported to have said: 'Look, your Eminence, the cats are invading the Holy See.'

One of the most notable literary clerical cats appears in P.G. Wodehouse's *The Story of Webster* (1930) in which Lancelot Mulliner, a young artist, struggles to stay bohemian in the presence of his censorious cat. Webster arrived in a hamper from Lancelot's uncle, the Dean of Bolsover, who had been appointed to a colonial bishopric. The portly cat, who keep his shape thanks to daily lashings of cream (and fish three times a week) is described as: 'Very large and very black and very composed. He conveyed the impression of being a cat of deep reserves. Descendant of a long line of ecclesiastical ancestors who had conducted their decorous courtships beneath the shadow of cathedrals and on the back walls of bishops' palaces, he had that exquisite poise which one sees in high dignitaries of the church.' Webster, by gazing sternly at Lancelot, convinces him to stop drinking, shave regularly, and ignore his fiancée. This malign influence is only broken when Webster accidentally becomes inebriated.

There are cats in other religious buildings around the world. In Istanbul's Hagia Sophia mosque, for example, there's a cat called Gli. In Bangkok a nameless cat often disturbs prayers in one of the city's most popular Buddhist temples. In Judaism there is even a term for synagogue cats: Shul Katze. Indian temples are often overrun with felines. There is clearly a strong connection all over the world between places of worship and our beloved cats.



A cat toys with a mouse in the margins of the Luttrell Psalter, England, 1325–1340: Add MS 42130, f. 190r.

Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle specialises in animal history and is the author of several books including *Dogs in Medieval Manuscripts* (British Library), *The Dog Books: Dogs of Historical Distinction*, and *Medieval Pets* (Boydell & Brewer), among others.



## New: Honey's Cat Bowls

There are two ways to obtain one of these stylish, personalised bowls. Buy one for £20. Or receive one free of charge by recommending a new customer to Honey's.



The Getty Museum Ms. Ludwig XV 1 (83.MR.171), fol. 48



# Bath time with Honey's

We asked some of our beloved canine customers to review the UK's leading natural shampoos. This is what they said...



'Jill, you didn't use this volumising shampoo when you washed the dog did you?'



## Wild for Dogs

**So Fresh, So Clean Organic Dog Shampoo**

£14.50 (150ml)

[wildfordogs.co.uk](http://wildfordogs.co.uk)

'I was hoping for great things and it did not disappoint. It smelt wonderful, and very importantly, natural. The product lathered well and it did not leave a film on my coat either.' Okie Pitts



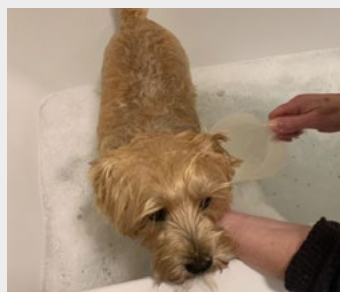
## Wild for Dogs

**So Fresh, So Clean Organic Dog Shampoo**

£14.50 (150ml)

[wildfordogs.co.uk](http://wildfordogs.co.uk)

'What a lovely smell. It is easy to use thanks to the pump. It has a lovely smell and lathers up well. My coat looks even lovelier and shinier. Plus, I smell great, too!' Casper Barker



## Purplebone

**Oatmeal Dog Shampoo**

£14.99 (500ml)

[purplebone.com](http://purplebone.com)

'It smelt lovely, was nice to use and left my coat feeling soft and smelling clean. My personal assistant has very sensitive skin and was delighted that it didn't cause any irritation.' Ruaidhri (Ru) Mackintosh/Sheer



## K9 Organics

**Sensitive Dog Shampoo**

£12 (250ml)

[k9organics.co.uk](http://k9organics.co.uk)

'I loved the fact that it was unscented. Being small and low to the ground I must admit that I do pick up quite a bit of mud, especially on the farm. It did not trigger my allergies, which was a relief. The only downside was that I had to use quite a lot of shampoo to get me really clean. Still, I would definitely recommend this product.' George Frith



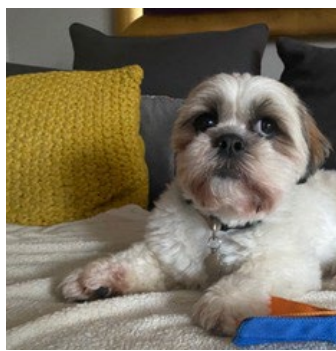
## Earthbath

**Hypo-Allergenic Shampoo**

£12.20 (472ml)

[simplydog.co.uk](http://simplydog.co.uk)

'Overall, it worked. My coat was noticeably cleaner than before. However, as it is 'fragrance free', it didn't do much to freshen me up. I usually use Puppy Love Shampoo from Animology, and I am not sure that I would switch.' Elton Sampson



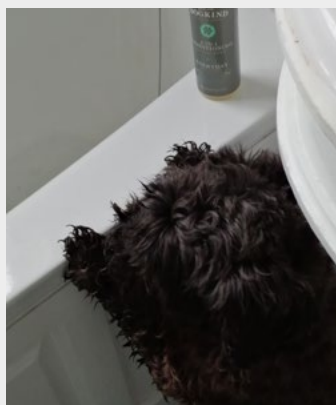
## For All Dogkind

**2-in-1 Conditioning Shampoo for Everyday Use**

£9.99 (250ml)

[foralldogkind.co.uk](http://foralldogkind.co.uk)

'I had great fun experimenting with this shampoo. It had a grapefruit fragrance, which I liked. It was not too bubbly, which I prefer, as it means less rinse time. It left me looking super clean, which is important. Best of all, no adverse skin reaction. All in all, a success as far as I am concerned.' Monkey Grove-Lafarge



## For All Dogkind

**2-in-1 Conditioning Shampoo for Everyday Use**

£9.99 (250ml)

[foralldogkind.co.uk](http://foralldogkind.co.uk)

'I am always curious and keen when the bath water is being run, but seriously unhappy once I have been plonked in! However, I can report that the shampoo lathered well and washed away copious amounts of mud. It had a subtle fragrance, which I prefer. I would recommend this for both dogs and the planet.' Milly Mason



"His BACH is worse than his bite."



## Precious Pets

**Simply Scentless**

£17.25 (200ml)

[amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

'I was disappointed to find it was unscented, but the shampoo was so effective that I didn't mind. It was easy and pleasant to use and left my coat soft and silky smooth (once I had dried off). Boo Tyrer/Shepherd



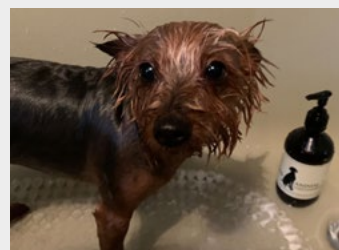
## Wildwash

**Senior Shampoo**

£9.95 (250ml)

[wildwash.co.uk](http://wildwash.co.uk)

'This shampoo smells amazing with lovely extracts of ginseng! It was easy to use and had a nice lather when wet. I have a very sensitive skin, but this product did not dry my skin or irritate me at all.' Frankie Lacey (RIP)



## Aesop

**Animal Wash**

£27 (500ml)

[Aesop.com](http://Aesop.com)

'It had a pleasant smell and was easy to use in the pump dispenser bottle. It wasn't too soapy or lathery so rinsed out of both of our coats really easily. Overall, we were very impressed and are happy to recommend it.' Midge & Molly Behan



# The Honey's Directory of Everything



## Free books. Free advice. Free goodies.

If you know a dog lover who is interested in switching to a raw diet or who has a dog with health issues, do, please, put them in touch. We don't mind if they never, ever plan to become a customer. Indeed, we are happy to provide advice, support and even recipes. The most important thing is to do the best for their dogs. Also, if you would like free copies of our books to pass on or sell as a fundraiser for a good cause, all you have to do is ask. If someone you refer to us does decide to order (and they will be under no pressure to do so) we will, of course, say thank you in a tangible way – just let us know. Finally, a huge thank you for any referrals or introductions, which are greatly appreciated.



## A personalised Honey's Dog Bowl

A personalised Honey's Dog Bowl with your dog's name on the outside and Honey's on the inside. Price: £20 for small, £22 for the medium and £24 for the large BUT free, of course, if you recommend a new customer who orders from us!



## Our original Superdog Cape/Towel Thingie

Is it as cape? Is it a towel? Either way, it is the perfect way to dry off a wet dog. It comes in four sizes but only one colour: black. Small £15. Medium £18. Large £21. X Large £25.50. XX Large £30. Matching towel £6.

We are very grateful for any new customers you introduce and have a small selection of gifts (As G B Stern said: 'Silent gratitude isn't very much use to anyone.') to offer you by way of thanks. Please ask for details.



## Good things come in small sizes – 250g to be precise

A quick reminder that almost every single formula we offer is available in 250g as well as 500g chubs (the rather silly name used for our sausage like packaging). Please do ask for smaller sizes if it would be more convenient for you.



## Please send us your photos!

We love to see pictures of our four-legged customers. Please email them to: [info@honeysrealdogfood.com](mailto:info@honeysrealdogfood.com) Thank you, thank you!



## Gift Hampers

Don't say it with flowers, say it with Honey's! Prices for Gift Hampers start at £45 including delivery. We'll be happy to include a personalised card, too, and lots of little extras (such as book and treats).

%s!

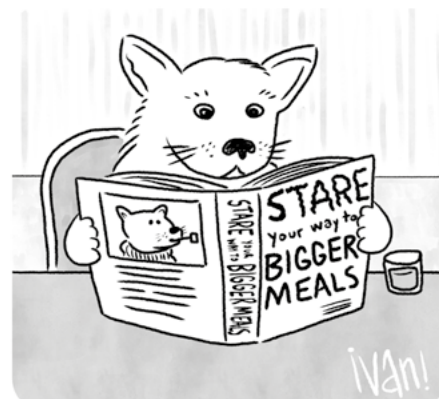
Each Honey's recipe has a different % of bone, offal and vegetable. To find the % that suits you best, please call!



## Beautiful Joe's Ethical Treats

We also make a pure liver treat called Beautiful Joe's. Every time we sell a packet we donate the same quantity to a dog rescue home nominated by our customers. The treats are hand made from 100% British, free-range, ox liver. Nothing is added – all we do is slowly dry the liver to lock in the flavour. If these treats were a liquid, we would call them Nectar of the Dogs. They lead to suspiciously perfect behaviour.

Offer	Cost	Save!
18 packets a month for the price of 12 + we give away 12 packets to dogs in need	£48.00	£24.00
12 packets a month for the price of 8 + we give away 8 packets to dogs in need	£32.00	£16.00
6 packets a month for the price of 4 + we give away 4 packets to dogs in need	£16.00	£8.00
5 packets + a tin + we give 5 packets away	£19.00	£3.50
1 packet	£4.00	
1 tin	£2.50	







## The Honey's Working Dog Food Range

You want choice? We have choice! We make six free range recipes and five wild recipes. Most can be ordered with and without vegetable, and come in two sizes – 250g and 500g.

Free range Working Dog Food	With Veg 250g	Without Veg 250g	With Veg 500g	Without Veg 500g
Free range Chicken	£1.08	£1.77	£2.15	£3.53
Free range Duck	£1.21	£1.77	£2.40	£3.53
Free range Pork	£1.33	£1.77	£2.65	£3.53
Free range Turkey	£1.21	£1.77	£2.40	£3.53
Pasture fed Beef	£1.28	£1.54	£2.55	£3.08
Pasture fed Lamb	£1.35	£1.54	£2.70	£3.08

Wild Working Dog Food	With Veg 250g	Without Veg 250g	With Veg 500g	Without Veg 500g
Rabbit	£2.05	£2.42	£4.00	£4.80
Game	£2.00	£2.27	£4.00	£4.50
Venison	£2.05	£2.42	£4.00	£4.80
Pheasant	£1.88	N/A	£3.75	N/A
Pigeon (NEW)	£2.50	£3.50	£5.00	£7.00

Please note that all our food - especially our 'wild' range - is seasonal. Although we keep as much stock as we can in our freezers we can't always guarantee availability.

Active Working Dog Food	500g
Free range Chicken	£2.15
Free range Duck	£2.40
Pasture fed Beef	£2.55

## Certified Organic Dog Food

Certified Organic Dog Food	With Veg 250g	Without Veg 250g	With Veg 500g	Without Veg 500g
Pork	N/A	N/A	£4.75	N/A
Chicken	N/A	£2.77	£4.25	N/A
Turkey	N/A	N/A	£4.25	N/A
Beef	N/A	N/A	£4.80	N/A

Please note we also offer organic pork tails, pork belly ribs and pork heart.



## The Honey's Lean Recipe Range

Looking for something low in fat and/or low in protein?

Our Lean range comes in four recipes.

Lean Dog Food	250g	500g
Lean, pasture fed Lamb	£1.61	£3.20
Lean, free range Pork	£1.57	£3.15
Lean, free range Duck	£1.43	£2.85
Lean, free range Turkey	£1.43	£2.85
Washed Tripe & Ox Heart	N/A	£3.00



## Free range bones and wings

Looking for something that Fifi or Fido can get her or his teeth into? We offer a wide range of free range bones and wings. Bones are important for two reasons. Firstly, they provide vital nutrients including calcium, complex (good) fats and vitamins. Secondly, the actual chewing of the bones is what keeps a dog's teeth and gums healthy. Chewing and gnawing is also, believe it or not, excellent exercise and helps a dog to stay fit. We recommend giving your dog a fresh bone approximately once per week. Wings, on the other paw, are the perfect complete meal.

Free range bones and wings	
2 knuckle end pasture fed beef bones	£4.00
5 large pasture fed beef lollipop bones	£7.60
5 medium pasture fed beef lollipop bones	£7.60
2 medium pasture fed beef lollipop bones	£3.50
8 small pasture fed beef lollipop bones	£7.60
5kg of free range chicken wings	£15.50
1kg of 3 joint free range chicken wings	£3.60
1kg of free range duck wings	£4.25
1kg pasture fed lamb ribs	£5.00

## DIY ingredients Save up to 33%

Why not make your own dog food using our ethically sourced ingredients? Not only can we supply you with wild, free range and organic 'makings', but we can also provide you with advice, recipes and support. We reckon that going the DIY route saves most of our customers between 25% and 33%.

Beef heart pasture fed per 1kg	£3.50
Beef liver pasture fed per 200g	£1.50
Beef tripe pasture fed washed in water per 1kg	£4.75
Chicken carcass free range per kg	£3.50
Chicken necks free range x 10	£5.00
Duck carcass free range per kg	£4.00
Duck necks free range x 10	£7.50
Lamb heart pasture fed per kilo	£4.90
Lamb trachea pasture fed x 4	£3.50
Pork certified organic pig tails x 6	£3.00
Pork certified organic belly ribs (750g approx.)	£6.00
Pork certified organic heart per kg	£5.00
Pork free range tongue x 2	£2.75
Pork free range trotters x 2	£4.00

## Special DIY boxes Save even more

If you have the freezer space, why not take advantage of our special DIY boxes and save even more £££?

Special Offer Boxes – big savings!	
DIY taster box free range	£30.00
Duck carcass free range 14kg	£52.00
Chicken carcass free range 14kg	£45.00
Lamb ribs pasture fed 9kg	£40.00

## Certified organic beef bone broth

Made using certified organic, grass-fed beef bones and filtered water with carrot, unrefined, unpasteurized and unfiltered apple cider vinegar aka 'with mother', thyme, turmeric and black pepper – all of which are also certified organic. 200ml £4.95. 500ml £9.95

## Handmade Biscuits

We used to make our handmade biscuits at home but we got fed up with having to stay up all night baking, so now a local baker produces them for us. We use only the finest ingredients (including wholewheat flour) and, as you would expect, we have no truck with preservatives, sugar, salt, colouring or other chemicals. 100g of natural bone shaped biscuits or cheesy hearts will cost you £2.99.



## RAW PROOF

The results of our 24-month research investigation into a species-appropriate diet for dogs is now available. You can download a PDF from our website or ask us to send you a hard copy (free of charge).



## The Real Honey's Dog Food story

Do you know someone who is interested in switching to raw feeding? Would a copy of Jonathan's book help? Please ask for a FREE copy in your next order.

Our packaging is 100% recyclable. We use packaging that takes up 20% less space in a freezer than a tub and weighs 90% less.

Our books are also available as FREE downloads on our website



REAL DOG FOOD

Phone: 01672 620 260 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Email: [info@honeysrealdogfood.com](mailto:info@honeysrealdogfood.com)  
[www.honeysrealdogfood.com](http://www.honeysrealdogfood.com)



All Honey's literature is printed using vegetable based inks on FSC® approved paper. FSC stands for the Forest Stewardship Council.