

WINTER 2021

NEWSLETTER



PAWS TO THE PARK & GOLF FUNDRAISER

We were thrilled to be able to hold our first fundraising events in almost 2 years!

First up was Paws to the Park, which was kindly sponsored by Purina and a number of local businesses.

Despite the torrential rain, we were so grateful for the die hard walkers and their dogs (and 1 cat!) who showed up to support us. It was so exciting to have a Halloween-themed event and see so many of you make such an effort with the animal and human costumes!

Next up was our golf fundraiser. It was the first time we have held a golf fundraiser which was kindly sponsored by Turtle Hill Golf Club, Markel, IEP, and Lancashire Insurance. As with Paws to the Park, we sold out on registrations and were overwhelmed by the support the community showed us.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

It goes without saying that being able to hold regular fundraisers are vital to keep operational funds flowing, to keep the shelter functioning, and for continuing to meet the high level of specialist care we provide for all our animals. These fundraisers would not be successful without the support of local businesses who are able to provide us with the tools to ensure our events are a success. The simple fact is, we do not have the large budget to risk on these events which is why we rely on their support to help us along the way and help us they certainly do!

Here are some of the businesses who have chosen to support us over the past 12 months, support for which we are extremely grateful

Once again, from the bottom of our hearts, animal and human....THANK YOU



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IN DIESEL'S MEMORY

All of our shelter animals are special, but every now and then you get one who takes an extra piece of your heart. Diesel was adopted by the wonderful Steinhoff family and the whole team were absolutely devastated to hear of Diesels passing. We asked if Diesel's family would like to put together some memories of Diesel for us to share and here is what they had to say.....

We knew that Diesel was our dog when we met him at the SPCA. Once we took him home, he settled in very quickly and was such a treasure to have. He quickly became a member of our family.

Diesel loved his new yard, chasing the birds and lizards and playing out there with us. He loved his wading pool. He was fascinated with the ocean design on his pool and tried to catch the fish. This kept him cool and busy!

He loved going on walks with us and we spent lots of time on the railway trails and parks.

We are thankful that we got to spend one Christmas with Diesel. Diesel was completely spoiled with attention and gifts at Christmas because he had been such a good boy.

He loved his treats and his toys and was spoiled by all of our family who considered him family as well.

Diesel loved to go on car rides. It didn't matter where we went he just loved being in the car with us.

Diesel somehow knew when it was time for our son Cole to come home from school every day. He would wait at the door for him and once Cole came through the door, Diesel was so happy and would start licking him as if he hadn't seen him for days. They had a very special bond.

Truthfully, Diesel's favourite place to be was anywhere that we, his family, were. Due to COVID, he always had at least one person at home with him throughout the year. He absolutely loved it!

We had to be careful when cooking or moving about especially in the kitchen as we would turn around and Diesel would be right under our feet - we had to be careful not to trip over him.

We think he loved being with us. He loved curling up on the couch with us in the evenings and made sure we knew that he was there.

We would have loved to have had Diesel for many more years. Our year together was amazing. Diesel absolutely gave us everything he could right to the end.

It wasn't until two weeks before he passed that he showed us that he was ill. Up until then he was very active, had a great appetite and seemed very healthy so his cancer diagnosis came as a complete surprise. He was kind and loving to the end.

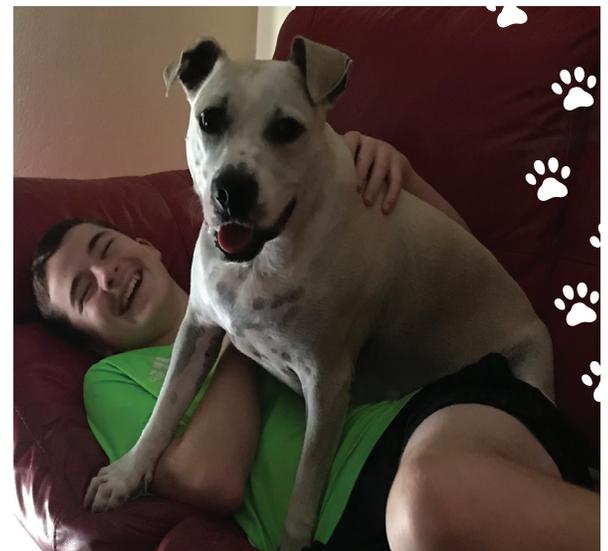
Diesel was so kind and honest. He had the most loving eyes and heart.

We were his people and he was our boy. We will love him forever

Thanks so much for contacting us and putting something together in Diesel's memory. I didn't mention before as it was too difficult, but Diesel was with me during my darkest days after my Dad passed away in March 2020. He got me through all of the first year without my dad and then he showed us that he was ill. I truly believe that Diesel was sent to be with us during this incredibly difficult time. He will always be our Angel.

Just when we had started to even think about maybe getting another dog, the SPCA contacted us about a litter of puppies. We adopted little Mace almost a month ago. He is settling in well and is keeping us very busy. We are very grateful to the SPCA for trusting us with Diesel and with Mace.

We have attached one of our favourite photos of Diesel with our son Cole and also a photo of Mace in his "big brother" Diesel's bed.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT RUTH...

I have been volunteering at the SPCA for around two and a half years and it has been a wonderful experience. I started off helping out with dog walking, which I thoroughly enjoyed, and it taught me to question some of my own judgments I had about certain dog breeds. I had never encountered Pit Bulls before and had always been somewhat wary of them. I soon learnt however that once you gained their trust they can be extremely loving fun and loyal friends. Lovely Cooper was a great example of this but I think this is true of most dogs. Barney was a Jampup and was very nervous and skittish, but after a while he grew to trust me and I had the privilege of taking him on his first walk off site, which I felt honoured to do. A long time residence called Felicity is a lovely cheerful dog and a great pick you up. She is always happy to see you and greets you with a wagging tail. She has been at the shelter for some time now. My fingers are crossed that she finds a loving home soon as it will be much deserved.



After about six months I moved on to helping out with cats, rabbits and other small animals which I have loved. I go to the shelter twice a week and spend most of my time there cleaning out the cat and rabbit runs. I often end up going home covered in straw and animal fluff, but despite this it is so worth it as you get to spend time with these amazing animals. I love the fact that they get to know you and you are often greeted with excitement and cuddles. It seems to me that the animals know you are there to help them and make their home nice for them. Each one has their own way for showing you their appreciation. Two beautiful cats called Trevor and Tristan thank you by constantly chatting to you while you are cleaning and once you have finished they inspect their cage and then cuddle you as a thank you. Other beautiful cats I have met there are Susie Q Garnet, her lovely sister Ruby, Fiona and Maggie. Really there have been many and I have enjoyed spending time with all of them.

Sometimes cats can react badly to being brought into the shelter as they have lost their familiar homes and find themselves in an unfamiliar environment. This can be sad to witness but with time and a lot of TLC they come out of their shells, which is wonderful to see. It feels good to be part of their recovery story even if it is a very small part.

I have found it rather cute as to how much personality a rabbit can have and how they find ways of letting you know what sort of day they are having. I am thinking of a rabbit called Dave who could be so sweet but also had a little attitude about him which always made me smile. On a good day he would greet you with a friendly hop and bounce. On a bad day he would just pretend that you weren't there and just side-eye you.



The shelter guinea pigs have also surprised me with their amusing behaviour and quirky little personalities. One in particular comes to mind a very handsome boy called Edward who seemed to have it all, a supermodel of the Guinea pig world and personality to match. He would greet you with nose kisses and was always grateful to receive a yummy treat. He found a great new home.



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SPOTLIGHT CONT...

My second fostering experience came in the form of 3 little Jackawawa puppies, who sadly had not had the best or most caring start to life. I agreed to take one of the puppies home but ended up taking all three of them and just crossed my fingers that my husband wouldn't notice. Unfortunately the first two to three weeks of having them was rather traumatic as each of the puppies took turns in becoming ill due to a horrendous worm infection. There were a number of frantic trips to the vets and at times it was looking very dark for these little ones. It is frustrating to think that their suffering

could have been avoided if the proper care was given to them in the first place. Thankfully all three of them recovered and started to thrive. A lot of fun was had taking them to the beach playing with them and giving and receiving endless cuddles. It was a joy to watch them develop and it intrigued me how they displayed their individual personalities - cheeky one, clever one and I love lots of cuddles one - all very cute. After about nine weeks they found wonderful forever homes and left us. It was very hard for me to let them go, but I felt so happy for them. I was also a little relieved that I could get some sleep and to have a tidy house again.



Both of these fostering experiences have been amazing, hard work and sometimes stressful, but totally worth it and I feel grateful that my husband didn't mind having our home invaded by these animals and we shared this experience together.

Another very positive aspect of volunteering is the people you meet. Firstly the wonderful staff at the shelter, who have been nothing but kind, supportive, informative and have always made me feel very included. Secondly are the other volunteers. I spend my time with some amazing enthusiastic caring and passionate people and we are drawn together because of our love of animals. It often makes me smile when I hear these volunteers having full on conversations with whichever animal they are with and it reassures me because I'm doing the same. We often sit down with a cup of tea in one of the animal runs, just chit chatting and are joined by whichever animal is there. Maybe they like the gossip too.

My time at the shelter has been so rewarding and I just adore being part of an environment where everyone is as passionate about animals as I am. I have found my time there to be a very enriching experience. I strongly believe that giving back in some way is extremely important and I consider myself very fortunate to be able to do this at the SPCA.

MEET THE TEAM...

This time in our "meet the team" section, we hear from Nicholas Smith.

I had never worked with animals before I joined the SPCA, though I've owned and loved pets my whole life so I knew I would be a good match. I've learned an awful lot about animal psychology and just how smart they all are. It has been great to work alongside Eileen, who has taught us about dog behavior and how to read their body language so you can better understand what they are trying to say to you.

Watching how the dogs develop while they are with us and learn quality of life and home skills is one of the highlights of my day. I don't think I'll ever lose the newfound passion of training and exploring the inner workings of the animals mind, seeing what they like and dislike and seeing their personality grow.

Working with such a diversity of animals, always keeps the job interesting. From caring for horses, to looking after birds and guinea pigs I have learned a lot about animal husbandry, and just like us, how important their mental health is to their care. Even though not all of the animals have had the best start in life, being a part of the process of adopting and watching the animals go to such great, caring homes is such a fulfilling aspect of working here.

Being the volunteer coordinator, it's been lovely to work with such a diverse group of people who love animals as much as me, and it is very encouraging to see just how many people are eager to help out with our cause of improving the lives of animals.

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A FOSTER FAMILY?

The shelter is currently overwhelmed with animals. To ease pressure and free up space, we often look to place our animals in foster care when it is appropriate.

Would you like to become a foster family? It's great solution when people may only be residing in Bermuda for a limited time and do not want the full commitment of homing an animal.

To find out more, or to meet with one of our animal care team to have a chat, please email, info@spca.bm

All the animals and team would like to wish you Happy Holidays! Please consider us in your holiday giving www.spca.bm/donate From the bottom of our hearts, animal and human, **THANK YOU**



**CLICK TO
DONATE TODAY!**