

# SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No. 1121874

March 2011

Welcome to the Spring 2011 Newsletter.

The Charity rehomed **67** dogs in 2010. A big "Thank You" to everyone who supports the Charity and enabled us to give these dogs a forever home. They range from youngsters to veterans, healthy to needing long term veterinary treatment.

Our need for funds is ongoing as the demand on our resources is increasing all the time. In the current economic climate, some people being made redundant are unfortunately unable to afford to keep their dogs. The Charity aims to help everyone who contacts us and we work with other charities to give these dogs a forever home.

If you would like to organise a fundraising event please contact Jean (see page 6).

The following are alternative ways of donating to the Charity.

"Easyfundraising" is a fantastic website where you can raise funds for Devon German Shepherd Rescue – just by shopping online! If you already shop with stores such as NEXT, Argos, HMV, John Lewis, M&S, Toys'R'Us, DELL, Dixons, Expedia or Debenhams, simply use the links provided on the Easy Fundraising site when you shop and at no extra cost to you, we'll receive a free cash donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. Over 600+ well known retailers are featured so if you already shop online, why not use "Easyfundraising" and raise funds for us at the same time. It really is completely FREE. Please visit their website [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/devongsr](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/devongsr).

Our website now has "Donate" buttons. Donations can be made securely via PayPal or a variety of credit/debit cards. Any such donations will hopefully raise much needed funds.

The Charity has recently registered with MissionFish which is the partner charity of eBay. It runs auction and shopping websites. Through MissionFish, eBay users are able to donate to registered non profit organisations when they buy and sell through the [www.eBay.co.uk](http://www.eBay.co.uk) site.

Anyone using eBay can help raise funds for our Charity:

- You can search for items being sold by our Charity.
- You can specify an extra amount to be donated to our Charity when you pay for an item you have won.
- You can search for our Charity and "Donate Now" with your PayPal account.



On Friday 30th April 2010 Liz Watkins, who walks on crutches, did a sponsored six mile Tarka Trail trek (Bideford to Torrington) to raise money to help save the sight of George, an eight month old German Shepherd Dog. Liz suffers from a worn spine so to get to Torrington was a personal challenge for her. George, his owner Marion and Linda (Co-ordinator for the Charity) attended a presentation to receive a cheque for £400. Photograph of George with Liz and Marion.

The following is an update on **George** who came into the care of the Charity at the age of 8 months in February 2010 requiring specialist eye treatment.

#### George Report on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011

by

Mrs Kathy Ward, Consultant Ophthalmologist

George is doing really well, with the cataracts essentially unchanged.

Right eye has the most dense and extensive lens changes, these do compromise his central vision in this eye, especially in fast moving circumstance, where there is insufficient time to move his head position to get a good view of things.

Left eye the lens changes remain very small and not very dense, indeed he may experience little if any alteration of vision because of it.

The uveitis (inflammation with the eye) has subsided with the continued use of acular, and for now I am happy for him to continue on this treatment as before. The intra ocular pressures have improved as a result of treatment to R12 L14.

A further check in two months is recommended.

**Brio's** owners have sent this update:

He has spent his first time in kennels since we adopted him while we were on holiday. He was generally a good boy and they're having him back next week while we go to a funeral so I think he got on OK.

He and Pumpkin are now the best of friends in a cat/dog sort of way. Brio keeps nosing Pumpkin to get him to play and then is chuffed when the cat chases him up and down the stairs or round the house. It is quite hilarious to see the cat in charge!



I have taken numerous pictures of course but have a couple from the snow which I thought were nice so hope you can put them on the website. You might notice he's filled out a bit, has a more confident look about him and is now a really handsome dog (though I am biased).



**Marley** has recently been rehomed and his owners have sent this update. He's settling in really well although he was a bit nervous to start with and was obviously missing living with other dogs. He followed Geoff around like a shadow for the first week but is getting more confident and happier to be on his own as he gets used to being somewhere new. I managed to get some photographs of him today when we went out for a walk which I will attempt to send with this!! He loves going in the car now which is good and travels well. All in all we've found him to be such a lovely natured, friendly dog and a joy to live with. Thank you for letting us adopt him, we already can't imagine being without him!!



**Monet** was six months old when she came into the care of the Charity at the beginning of October 2010. This feature on Monet may help people to understand the varied and sometimes distressing work of the Charity. Monet isn't ready for re-homing yet, she'll have to remain with us for some considerable time. The following is the diagnosis on Monet from Torbridge Veterinary Hospital:

"Monet was admitted to Torbridge Veterinary Hospital on 11 October 2010. Monet had previously had surgery on her left elbow to correct an ununited anconeal process, commonly known as elbow dysplasia.

Monet presented with a large granulating wound on her leg which was clearly infected and a carpus which was no longer strong enough to support her weight – probably as a result of a prolonged period of time in a cast. Monet was treated with antibiotics and hospitalised for 8 days during which time she was continually cared for by the vets and nurses at Torbridge.

The wound on her leg started to granulate and we began to lightly exercise Monet to help strengthen the leg. Eventually we were able to discharge Monet back to her carer who continued the regime of wound care and light exercise. We have seen Monet on 3 further occasions to date and are continuing to monitor her progress on the damaged carpus and have not ruled out the need for surgery on this joint. The right elbow, which also has an ununited anconeal process, will probably require surgical treatment at some stage when Monet is fit enough to cope so in the meantime, the outlook for her remains uncertain at this stage."



Monet is currently being fostered by Linda, the Charity's Co-ordinator.

On Tuesday 18th January 2011 Monet was examined by Bill Slee, John Burnside and Amanda Brown, Veterinary Surgeons at Torbridge Group. The following is an update on her condition.

"As usual she was very bright and active and she was in excellent condition. Her left carpus has improved slightly. It has more elevation and the valgus deformity is less extreme. She is still lame but moves more fluently now. Both of her elbow joints are slightly swollen and this relates to the on going elbow disease that she has. Monet shows little sign of pain, however I suspect that she will have some discomfort from these joints.

Our suggested plan is to continue with her exercise regime and hydrotherapy until her bones have finished growing. This should take another two months. At this point we would like to reassess Monet, possibly take some x-rays and review her future treatment options. The areas under consideration will be both elbows and her left carpus."

In spite of all her suffering, Monet has the sweetest nature and loves everyone.

The Charity was primarily started for German Shepherd Dogs (GSDs) but we are occasionally asked to help with GSD crossbreeds and also dogs from other parts of the country.



**Rex and Evie** came from a dog pound in the Midlands.

The young lady who worked at the pound drove the dogs 60 miles to meet Chris Dannan who delivered them to Linda, our co-ordinator after ten hours on the road due to an accident on the motorway. The following day Linda took them to Camelot Kennels who look after the dogs we care for until we can find them a forever home.



Chris in Linda's words "We have found a true Diamond". The reason we have her on board is through Rescue Helpers Unite ([www.rescuehelpersunite.co.uk](http://www.rescuehelpersunite.co.uk)).

These two dogs were sponsored by two members so they did not cost the Charity anything. The donations we received for them when they were rehomed have gone into the Charity's bank account to help other needy dogs.

On a very sad note. Rex had been in his new home for a short period when he tragically died. His new owners were devastated. His unknown past made it difficult for the vet to give a definite reason for his death. We will never know what had happened to him before he came into Devon GSD Rescue, but while he was with us he had nothing but love and we should all be very proud.

Chris posted the following tribute to Rex on Facebook.

"God looked around his garden and found an empty place,  
He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face. He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful he always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering he knew you were in pain. He knew that you would ...never get well on earth again. He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb. So he closed your weary eyelids and whispered, 'Peace be Thine'. It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone, For part of us went with you the day God called you home."

RIP Rex. Run free, lovely boy xxx



**Joe** came into the Charity having received a call from a Dog Warden in South Devon concerning a GSD Cross who had been found as a stray. He was desperately trying to find a rescue place for the little chap as they had been holding him for two weeks and they are only supposed to hold dogs for seven days before euthanizing them. We agreed to take the dog immediately. When he arrived it was clear that this dog had been straying for some time. The dog they had named Ranger was in a very poor state, he was very matted and

extremely underweight. His teeth were virtually worn away and his breath smelt terrible. He also had two suspect lumps, one on the top of his head and one on his front leg. Ranger also had hair loss on his back end and tail, his skin was flaky and he was extremely itchy. It is difficult to guess at his age because his teeth are so worn and stray dogs have a hard life, which can lead to them looking old before their time. We estimate him to be 8-10 years old. The first thing we did for Ranger was to have his lumps removed and he needed to have five teeth removed as they were completely rotten (his breath now smells a lot better!). The results of tests on his lumps showed them to be benign, however one was of a strain that could return as malignant and will need to be monitored. Ranger then went into foster care, where it was decided a new beginning warranted a new name and Joe was born. He has increased in weight by 7 kgs. Joe was then vaccinated, wormed and flea treated. Next Joe was pampered with a medicated bath for his skin and groomed to rid him of all the horrible matting. Ten days after his operation Joe's stitches were removed and he left foster care and went to live out the rest of his life with one of our Trustees. Joe was still extremely itchy and a skin scraping showed him to have a bacterial infection on his skin, which was treated with antibiotics. For all this lovely boy has been through he is one of the most gentle, sweetest natured dogs we have ever met. He loves to play with the ball and is always ready for a cuddle.



**Ben, the GSD plus Jack and Jill Russell** came from a dog pound in Wales. On Saturday the 29th January Chris went off to Wales to collect Ben. When she arrived she was asked if she could take two one year old Jack Russells who were also in the pound. Chris contacted Linda who agreed to take the "two Jacks" and sponsor them herself. Diana Lewis of the North Devon Animal Ambulance [www.northdevonanimalambulance.co.uk](http://www.northdevonanimalambulance.co.uk) agreed to pay for Jack's castration. Jill has found her forever home in Cornwall and Jack is now living with a local vet.

## **Events Diary 2011**

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011

The Blue Cross "Animals in Need Day", 10am - 1pm,  
The Precinct Centre, Church Road, St. Marychurch, Torquay.  
Refreshments, Bric-a-brac and Tombola will be for sale on the stalls.

### Saturday 23rd April 2011

Collection outside Mole Avon Town & Country Stores ([www.moleavon.co.uk](http://www.moleavon.co.uk)) Exeter Road,  
Okehampton EX20 1QQ.

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011

The Devon GSD Rescue is holding a Companion Dog Show in Simmons Park, Okehampton in conjunction with the Rotary Club May Fayre.

### Saturday 11th June 2011

Coffee morning in the Church Hall, Market Street, Okehampton EX20 1HN  
(next to Somerfield) 9.30am - 12.30pm

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Banwell Companion Dog Show with German Shepherd Dog Rally, Banwell Equestrian Centre,  
Downend Farm, Moor Road, Banwell, Weston-super-Mare BS29 6ET.

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Okehampton and District Agricultural Show [www.okehamptonshow.co.uk](http://www.okehamptonshow.co.uk)

### Saturday 8th October 2011

Coffee morning in the Church Hall, Market Street, Okehampton EX20 1HN  
(next to Somerfield) 9.30am - 12.30pm

### Saturday 17th December 2011

Coffee morning in the Church Hall, Market Street, Okehampton EX20 1HN  
(next to Somerfield) 9.30am - 12.30pm

If you can help at our fundraising events or would like to organise an event yourself please contact Jean (Our Fund Raising Co-ordinator).



### **2011 Christmas Card Competition**

Please don't forget the competition for our Christmas 2011 card. Please submit good quality photographs of your dog(s) and an independent judge will choose the winner. All entrants will have their photographs in the 2011 Winter Newsletter. The closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Please send your photographs or any questions to Michele (see page 6).

### **Contact Telephone Numbers for the Trustees**

Chairperson/ Fosterer/ Behaviourist/ Trainer:	Mandy	Tel: 01409 220125; Mob: 07969777047
Secretary/Fundraising Co-ordinator:	Jean	Tel. 01647 24316
Treasurer:	Michele	Tel. 01822 880235
Membership Secretary:	Gilly	Tel. 01837 861679
Assessor/Fundraiser:	Helen	Tel. 01647 277104
Assessor/Fundraiser:	Marion	Tel. 01363 82954
Assessor/Fundraiser:	Malcolm	Tel. 01837 851454
Assessor/Fundraiser:	Marissa	Tel. 01237 476988

Please visit our website [www.devongsdrescue.org.uk](http://www.devongsdrescue.org.uk) which is updated regularly.