



Greyhounds, Golden Oldies And Friends Animal Sanctuary



Spring 2020 Issue 54

1990-2020 - 30 Years of Rescue

Dear Friends,

First and foremost I do hope that you have all stayed safe and well in such difficult times as these and since the 'lockdown' of the country which has meant different things for different people. Mostly it has caused hardship in one way or another and particularly challenging and worrying times for those on the frontline some of whom have lost their lives whilst carrying out their vital work, to all of those people we are indebted for all time. I would like to say thank you to our vets and staff at Lime Trees for providing the same care to our animals, albeit in a different way than we are used to. I believe that some practises took the decision to close so on behalf of all our animals thank you all so much.

I think that the needs of our pets were sometimes overlooked within the 'rules' of lockdown especially if a dog for example only had one owner and maybe no outdoor space, being allowed out just once a day is not enough as not everyone is lucky enough to have a garden or someone else to walk their pet. Thankfully for the animals here very little changed and life for them has ticked along



very much as normal, not a day has gone by when I haven't felt very fortunate to live where we do. Daisy, Candi & Floss are pictured enjoying the sunshine. One thing that the dogs are missing though are the Yorkshire puddings and all trimmings from The Greyhound Inn at Saverley Green as Paula always kindly saved the leftover Sunday lunches for our oldies. I do hope that Paula and the team can come through all of this, so many people and businesses are going to face very hard and uncertain times ahead.

RELUCTANT URGENT APPEAL. I would like to say the very hugest THANK YOU to all the very kind people who supported our 'Reluctant Urgent Appeal' the response was fantastic and helped get us through a very difficult period, to each and every one of you for your donations large and small, THANK YOU, every single penny counted. Grateful thanks also to those of you who kindly donated dog food, it has been a huge help. The appeal was only sent out to our email supporters simply because this method is instant and of course doesn't cost the charity anything. Thank you also to those of you who forwarded the appeal to other likeminded people as we gained some new and very welcome extra support. If you receive our newsletters by post but do have an email address then please do let me know as postage costs are ever increasing, we are very grateful for unused postage stamps as this is also a big help, thank you to those of you who support us in this way.

PLEASE NOTE. We have sadly and reluctantly made the decision to cancel this years Open Day.

CRUMBLE. Our little goat Crumble developed a hard lump on the front of his face earlier this year. As the lump didn't seem to cause him any distress I simply kept an eye on it but then in April the swelling spread down the side of his face. Rachel, one of the team at McMurtry & Harding, the vets who have cared for our goats and ponies since taking over the large animal practise from Lime Trees, diagnosed a possible tumour as the airway down one of his nostrils seemed to be 'blocked' with no air getting through. As he was still chewing his cud and seemed fine in himself, Rachel prescribed antibiotics and pain relief which also acted as an anti-inflammatory. I must admit that I feared the worst sooner rather



than later but I am so pleased that the little fellow is doing just fine, for now at least, I do hope that he has the summer with us, goats love the hot weather and love to bask in the sun. Crumble & his brother Bramble, who can just be seen to the right in the photo, are affectionately known as Tweedledum & Tweedledee from the Alice in Wonderland story because they always have a little 'brotherly battle' when the corn is being shared out at feeding time and I can often be heard 'singing' to them 'Tweedledum & Tweedledee agreed to have a battle.....'

GOODBYES

MISSY. I thought that dear Missy would go on forever as even at 17 years old she never lost that 'lets get on with it and have fun' kind of attitude even when old age was finally catching up with her. She came to us two years ago when her owner sadly had to go in to hospital. Even though Missy had had a kind and caring home before coming here she could never really be the fun and energetic dog that she truly was and there was this bag full of energy just waiting to burst out, even at 15 years old. I was told that she was not good with other dogs (she got on great with all our other oldies) and so prior to coming here she had been a little restricted but she soon made up for that and hurtled around having the most wonderful time, I have had many a near heart stopping moment along the way but at least she was having fun. In August last year she had a 'vestibular episode', formerly



known as a stroke. After a few very worrying days she made an excellent recovery. Earlier this year she went for a chest X-ray as she was, amongst other things, panting sometimes at night. The X-ray and blood tests came back with excellent results for her age and so she was prescribed Metacam as pain relief and as an anti-inflammatory as the problem seemed to be in her throat. This improved things for a while but then her health started to deteriorate further and I knew that it was time to say goodbye to our wonderful old friend and like all of her friends before her she went very peacefully

to sleep at home thanks to our vet Hywel Parry. Sleep tight amazing Missy, life isn't quite the same without you. With us 22nd May 2018 - 6th May 2020.

FACEBOOK. We have decided to close down our Facebook Page as it is not managed properly due to a lack of time and messages sometimes get missed. Instead we hope to improve our website and keep it more up to date so if there is anyone out there who is computer savvy with time on their hands and who would like to help then I would love to hear from you!

I do hope that all that has happened of late and the reason that it happened has, at the very least, made people think. My belief is that the virus resulted from the abhorrent animal trade markets in China where animals, wild animals included, are kept in the most appalling conditions, this alone breeds disease and whether it did or not these dreadful places have been brought to light. I hope that it has made people think and question whether they really want to purchase products from countries where these abhorrent practices are widespread, sadly cruelty to animals happens globally and our own nation is no exception, there is good and bad in every corner of the globe, but it is the sheer scale and the fact that these practises are not seen as wrong because it is part of a country's 'culture' that is the most disturbing. I have known for many years, as have many people, the terrible horrors that animals face and my plea to you all is to buy ETHICALLY, whether that be the food that you eat or the clothes that you wear or the products and items that you use daily, please think what is behind it all and buy accordingly and then we can all make the world a better place not only for the animals and mankind but for the environment too. If you need a helping hand on choices, Cruelty Free International have a list of companies whose products warrant the 'Leaping Bunny' logo (see image). There is a lot of very misleading information out there, for example Tesco amongst others, feature a rabbit with the claim that 'this product is not tested on animals' and whilst that particular end product may not have been tested on animals all or some of the ingredients that went in to that product may well have been. I will now step down from my podium but I do believe that awareness and education are very much the key and if I have made just one person think and shop more ethically then it is worthwhile. If like me you would like to buy products that are made to last and made ethically, every throw away product that you buy ends up either in landfill or in our oceans which is shocking, then please have a look at the 'Buy Me Once' company, though the products may seem more expensive initially, in the long run they cost much less both to you and more importantly to the environment.



THIRTY YEARS OF RESCUE. This year marks 30 years of rescue as I first started taking in elderly dogs back in 1990 and then in 1995 Greyhounds & Golden Oldies was founded. Since those early days I have, with the help and kindness of so many supporters, given a 'happy ending' to over 450 dogs and in more recent years 15 ponies and 15 goats, most of whom are still with us. Apart from maintenance work and some of the 'mucking out' duties, looking after the animals on a daily basis and the running of the charity is done by myself, like my Mum I am fitted with Duracell batteries, you've seen the advert they're the ones that just keep on going. I have always strived very hard to give all the animals the best life possible and continue to make improvements year on year as and when needed. The most important people though are all of you because I simply couldn't carry on making a difference to so many beautiful animals without your help and so, from the bottom of my heart, thank you all so much for your kind and continued support especially in these uncertain times.

Love & best wishes

Diane x

Candi, Pudsey, Badger, Alfie, Kimmie, Nell, Merlin, Daisy, Lucy, Floss & Bruce (pooches) x

Sweet Pea, Bramble, Crumble, Pixie, Minnie, Peggy, Blue, Nanny McPhee, Ben, Deano, Moo, James & Jeremy (goats) x

Rosie, Blue, Dink, Heidi, Bumblebee, Flower, Dottie, Patch, Harry & Cecil (ponies) x