

Holly Hedge

# NEWSletter

Providing shelter from harm and the promise of a brighter future



**Our beautiful Midnight has been at Holly Hedge for over 2 years, and is our longest resident.**

He looks longingly from behind his kennel bars, for that very special someone to change his life around, his sad eyes pleading to be chosen and given the chance to live a normal and happy life.

If Midnight could only speak for himself, he would make a desperate plea from his heart, and this is what he would say...

*Hello, my name is Midnight, Holly Hedge has been my home for just over 2 years. I love my carers, and they love me, but someone is missing from my life - someone I can call my very own, someone who understands that I have lost a little bit of faith in humans, and I have to learn to trust before I can show what a loving and faithful boy I really am.*

*I am the longest resident here, and I am beginning to give up all hope of being chosen. I watch the other rescues going off to their lovely new homes, tails wagging excitedly - but I am always passed by. This makes me feel so sad and unwanted. My tail would wag longer than any of my friends if the reserve sign went on my kennel door!*

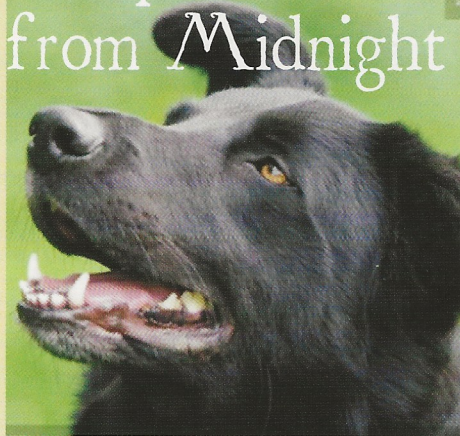
*Will it ever be my turn? I dream of my forever home, with a nice garden, and no other pets to cramp my style. I try not to show how lonely and desolate I feel when my carers go home and leave me, wishing with all my heart I could go home too.*

*It may take a little while for me to trust, and accept no one will hurt me, but once I get to know I have a true friend in my life, I give myself wholeheartedly, and will be the most devoted and loyal companion for life. All I ask is a chance to prove I'm worth it.*

*Yours longingly*

*Midnight*

## A Special Plea from Midnight



Hello, my name is Midnight,  
And often at that time...  
I lie awake just longing,  
For a home I can call mine.  
I have been here longer,  
Than all my kennel mates.  
When will I be adopted?  
And walk out through these gates?  
Just love me and be patient,  
Please make that your pledge  
So I can pack my bags and say,  
Farewell to Holly Hedge.

**HOLLY HEDGE**  
Animal Sanctuary

**Welcome to our Winter newsletter, jam-packed full of heartwarming stories and ways you can help Holly Hedge help more animals in need...**

**winter 2015**

**Wild Country Lane  
Barrow Gurney  
Bristol BS48 3SE**

**Tel: 01275 474719**

**[www.hollyhedge.org.uk](http://www.hollyhedge.org.uk)**

**Reg charity No: 294606**

# Raffle

Enter our Christmas Raffle to be in with a chance of winning some great prizes!

**1st Prize: £350**

**2nd Prize: £150**

**3rd Prize: Divino Deli Hamper**

Tickets are available at the Sanctuary, in our shop or by calling 01275 474719 or emailing [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk)



# LETTER FROM PAULINE



**Another year has almost gone by and Holly Hedge is still in the throes of building work. The new kennels are completed, except for the dog flaps being installed, and remedial work carried out to the external kennel runs.**

Phase 2 is going well, and the 3 cosy rooms with little gardens are now ready for our long term dogs to move in to, where they can reside in much homelier accommodation until the right homes come along. We hope they don't have to wait too much longer, all they need is time, patience and understanding, and of course, to know that they are loved and wanted.

The new medical room is looking good, and once we have raised the funds for the operating equipment, minor operations will be carried out on site, which will be less stressful for our rescues.

Our dedicated staff have had 2 years of coping with building work mayhem, mud up to (and in) their welly boots, and keeping our rescues as happy as possible during all the upheaval. They all have to be commended for doing a grand job, and remaining resilient throughout!

In the past year we have rehomed dogs and puppies, and cats and kittens. Our vet bills continue to soar, but no animal is ever denied the treatment they need to give them quality of life. We have a duty of care to all our rescues, and this will always be our first priority.

When the sadness of it all can be overwhelming, and we think our best is never good enough, the happy endings mean the world to us – and we can see how much we really do make a difference to so many animals' lives.

In the past year we have homed 143 dogs 357 cats. There is a shortfall on dogs as we only had 12 temporary kennels whilst the new build was taking place. It has been so heart warming to have rehomed lots of our long term rescue dogs such as Riley who was the front page star of our last newsletter, Mya, Ruby Jack, Sam our office dog and our rescued felines including Aragon, Catniss, Poppy & Freddie, Tabby & Smudge and Justine & Mr Tumbles. You can read some of these happy endings and more further on in the newsletter.

Our newsletters give just a glimpse of the work carried out at Holly Hedge, which is supported by so many individuals, too numerous to mention.

It just leaves me to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful staff, volunteers of all descriptions, and the lovely people who adopt our precious rescues – flaws and all, and of course all our supporters who donate their hard earned cash to help keep us afloat. We really couldn't do it without you.

Anyone interested in visiting Holly Hedge to help our rescues, please come and see us during our opening hours – it could change your lives.

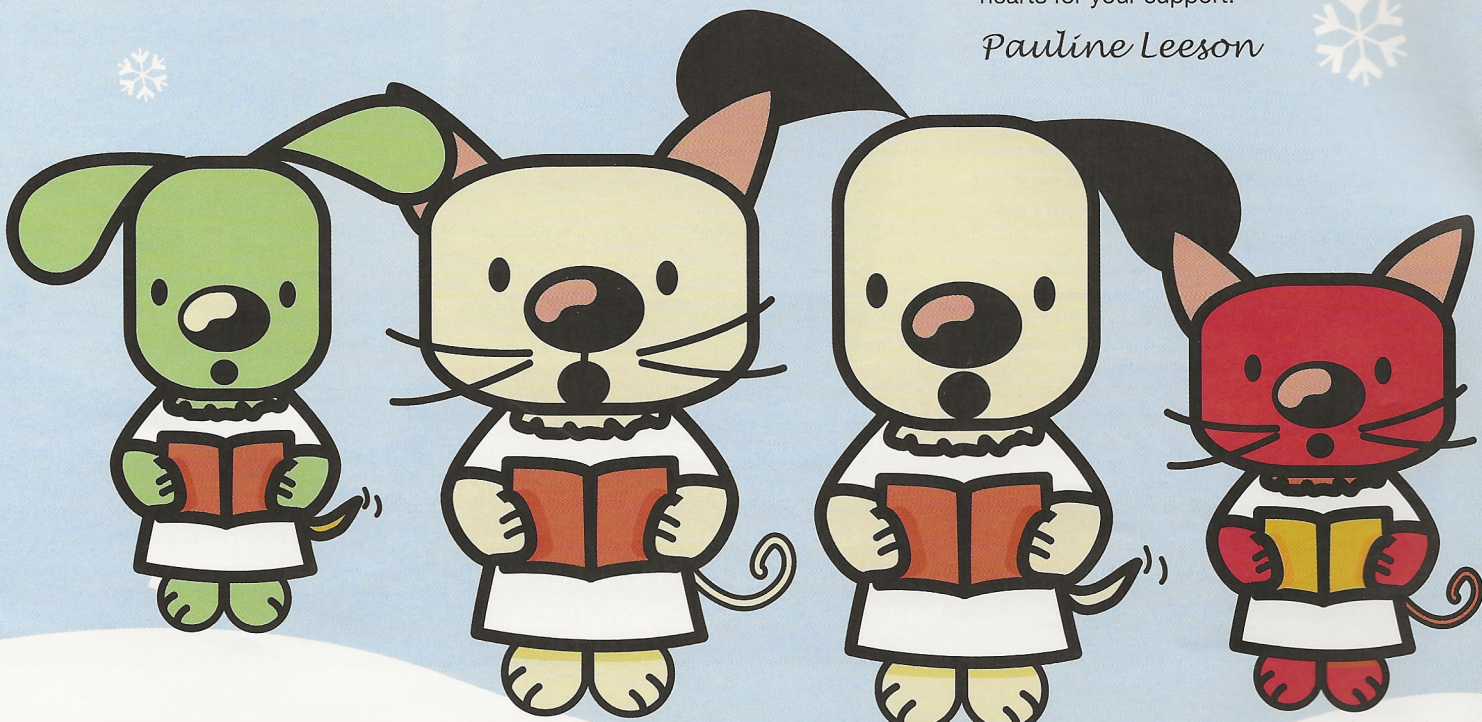
As Christmas is just around the corner, Holly Hedge is preparing for our rescues' Christmas dinner, and wrapping up presents kindly donated by generous public. It's their Christmas too, and we pull out all the stops to make it special for them. They may be temporarily homeless, but they are very much loved.

I have promised myself I won't waffle on as pictures speak louder than words, and there are so many happy endings we would like to share with you, as they are so heart-warming and uplifting.

Wishing each and every one of our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope to see you all at our celebration of the new kennels in the Spring which will be announced on our website.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your support.

*Pauline Leeson*



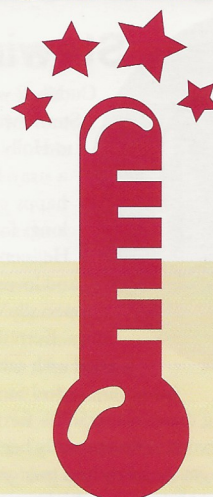


# WATCH THIS SPACE!

It's been a dynamic year here for Holly Hedge and 2015 has seen the birth of a series of new initiatives that will see 2016 as one of Holly Hedge's most exciting years yet. We are pleased to announce that innovation has been key this year and there are a lot of thrilling things on the horizon to watch out for. Holly Hedge is committed to engaging with new activities that will help us grow and reach out to more animals in need.

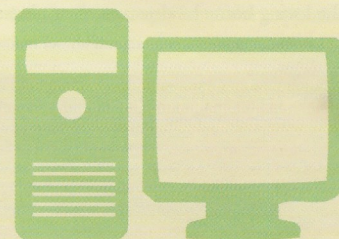
## Putting the Fun in Fundraising:

As you know here at Holly Hedge we receive no government or lottery funding and rely heavily on the kindness of our supporters, that's why this year we want to make more fun ways for you to be able to support us. We have recruited a team of new fundraisers who have come up with a whole host of exciting new challenges and events for you to take part in, from skydives to marathons there's something for everyone – please check out the fundraising pages for more information.



## The Technical stuff:

The Holly Hedge website will be undergoing a complete overhaul to improve its look and functionality. We love to have our supporters come and see us at the Sanctuary, but we want you to enjoy coming to see us online too. Digital-Jay LTD has picked up this project to make www.hollyhedge.org.uk a more user friendly place to visit. New features of the website will include an interactive adoption page, a volunteer login with calendar, and a brand new online Holly Hedge shop.



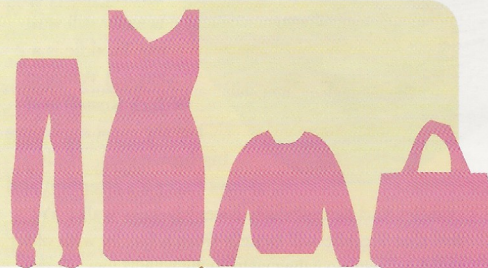
## Bark and Brew:

Have you ever wanted to nip down to the pub but weren't sure which ones are dog-friendly? Holly Hedge doesn't want to leave you with your tail between your legs. As part of our YipAdvisor programme we announce the production of our paw-some dog friendly pub guide. The booklet will feature dog friendly pubs in the greater Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North-East Somerset area. The high gloss publication will not only make a great read but will be full of information and pictures on the listed watering holes. Whether it's snow or shine, you can enjoy a tipple at a pooch friendly place.



## Making our community clothes-knit:

Bristol Textile Recyclers will be placing Holly Hedge textile banks in various locations around Bristol over the course of the following year. From Portishead to Weston-Super-Mare to Shepton Mallet our bright cherry-red textile banks will be great vantage points to drop off textiles, clothing, shoes, bags and belts. The first bank will be erected right on site at the Sanctuary. These convenient drop-off points free up vital space for high value items at our shops and is a great way for the public to continue supporting Holly Hedge by donating these items.



## Kennel Block:

Spring will see the eagerly awaited Kennel Block Launch. Our brand new, first class kennel block boasts 25 premier kennels with under-floor heating and a stress-reducing layout. The launch party will take place here this Spring with fun, games, food and more. The ribbon cutting will be done by a surprise guest and the team will be available to meet with guests to tour the kennel and answer questions.



## Edu-paw-cation:

Holly Hedge has always advocated the sharing of knowledge and advice from our experiences. 2016 will be no different and will see the return of monthly educational seminars being hosted on (and off) site by various speakers. Topics will range from dog laws, to zoo pharmacognosy, to animal behaviour and other important topics. **The first seminar Tellington Touch on January 27th will feature Tina Constance. Tickets on sale online and at the Sanctuary.**



**We're sure you will agree, 2016 will be the year to look out for. Remember, it's all for our furry friends and everything we raise here will continue to allow us to provide a safe haven for cats and dogs. Keep an eye on the website for updates, new enterprises and watch this space!**



# PLEASE GIVE ME A LOVING HOME

## Stewie



Cuddly 2 year old boy Stewie was brought to Holly Hedge as a stray, he is a very happy chap who longs for company. He is energetic and loves his walks, especially with other dogs. Even though he

is good with other dogs on his walks, we feel Stewie would benefit from being the only dog in his forever home. Stewie can be nervous at first possibly because of his past, but once he gets to know and trust you he is a lovely, cuddly, sweet boy. If you think you can offer Stewie the loving home he deserves, then please call in to meet him.

### A Special Plea from Stewie

*I'm still without a proper home and therefore I feel low.  
I promise that with all my heart,  
I've so much love to share.  
I really like to go for walks, give my legs a stretch,  
And spend time in the gardens, for a game of fetch.  
So won't you make these sad eyes shine?  
With happiness and joy?  
And say you'll take me home with you,  
To be your special boy.*

## Opie



Five year old Opie really loves a gentle fuss to be made of her and is patiently waiting for her forever home. After not getting on with other cats before, Opie would really benefit from a home where she can be herself and rule the roost! If you think you can give Opie the loving home she deserves, then please ask to meet her – you won't be disappointed!

### A Special Plea from Opie

*If you'd like a pretty cat,  
Who's coloured white and grey,  
Then I do believe that this  
Could be your lucky day.  
I really am quite baffled,  
At why I am still here.  
So won't you take a chance on me?  
And give me new found cheer.  
It doesn't suit me in a pen,  
That I must admit,  
But in the right forever home,  
I'd be the perfect fit!*

## Archie



Poor little 5 year old Archie is here through no fault of his own; his previous owner felt she could no longer give him the time he needs. Archie is looking for an experienced owner who has the time for further training and to work alongside our behaviourist. He can be nervous and needs to have a quiet, adult only home with no other pets. If you think you have what this lovely boy is looking for, then please ask to meet him.

### A Special Plea from Archie

*My name's Archie, I need love,  
I really, really do.  
Could you be that special one,  
Who stops me feeling blue?  
I often sit and wonder,  
Why life can be so tough.  
Of waiting in my kennel,  
I've truly had enough.  
Please do something great today?  
And turn my life around.  
Just take me to your heart and home,  
Where I'll be safe and sound.*

## Freddie



This sweet boy has been waiting patiently for his forever home and is sadly still waiting. Freddie is a 2 year old Whippet X Jack Russell and has the most appealing big brown eyes. He is

always eager for attention and cuddles and he especially loves his daily walks. We feel that Freddie will benefit from a family with older children and no other pets, as he would love all the attention to himself. If you would like to meet him, then please speak to a member of our team – it will make his day!

### A Special Plea from Freddie

*Come on people are you ready,  
To transform the life of Freddie?  
We at Holly Hedge think he's a super little lad.  
Poor boy does find it tough in here,  
And feels oh so sad.  
His heart is truly breaking,  
As he hates to be alone.  
He really does deserve a kind and loving, caring home.  
Freddie is affectionate and very handsome too.  
He'd love to say hello today,  
And fall in love with you!*

## Billy

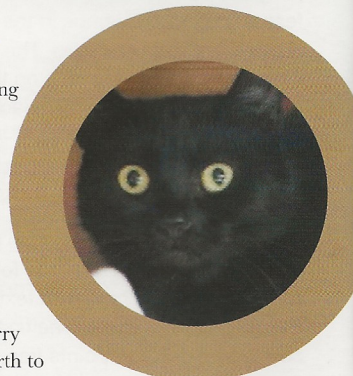


Handsom German Shepherd X Billy (approx 3/4 years old) first arrived at Holly Hedge after travelling across the globe from Baku where he led a terrifying life on the streets. Billy really loves company and his walks but dislikes it when you have to leave him. So he will need a loving home where he can be given reassurance and a steady routine and with someone who can be around most of the time to keep him company. Billy would like to be the only pet in the home and would benefit from an active household. He is an extremely loving boy who is just waiting for someone to take him to his forever home.

### A Special Plea from Billy

*Billy is my name, affection is my game.  
I'm one big loving cuddle bunny, soft & gentle, sweet as honey.  
My journey here was long and tough, And really rather draining  
But in my heart's the sinking feeling, That it is still raining.  
Like me the staff are baffled, At why I am still here.  
Won't you take a chance on me? And give me new found cheer.  
So waste no time & don't be silly,  
Come and fall in love with Billy!*

## Cherry



This very shy young girl arrived here heavily pregnant and in desperate need of shelter, a warm bed and people who could show her care and compassion. Cherry has since given birth to her beautiful kittens and is now looking for her forever home. This pretty girl needs someone to show her what love is and help her to gain in confidence. If Cherry sounds like the cat for you and you'd like to experience the joys of turning her life around, then please do come and pay her a visit.

### A Special Plea from Cherry

*If you find me hiding,  
Beneath my wooden house,  
You'll see me looking frightened,  
And quiet as a mouse.  
My start to life was bad you see, Devoid of love or company.  
I'd like to think that could all change,  
As we cats are so stoic.  
Oh won't you put 'reserved' on me?  
And do something heroic.*



# PLEASE GIVE ME A LOVING HOME

## Snow

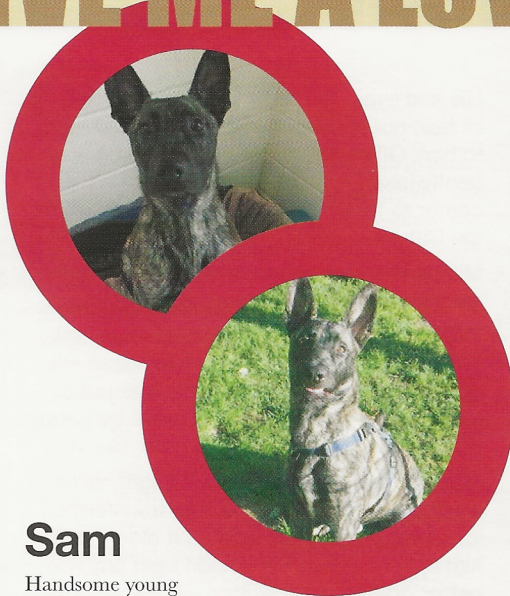


This sweet young mummy was found as a pregnant stray and was taken into foster care to give birth in peace. She has been a fantastic mum to her five kittens, all of whom have now flown the nest, leaving just Snow patiently waiting to be chosen.

She can be shy when you first meet her, but with time and patience she will come out of her shell. If you think you can give her the calm, loving home she deserves, then please do come and pay her a visit.

### A Special Plea from Snow

*You'd think that with a name like Snow,  
And Christmas closing in,  
That I would have been picked by now,  
A new life to begin.  
I don't need pricey, gift-wrapped presents,  
Or those fancy things.  
Just that joy and good will,  
The festive season brings.  
So come on Father Christmas,  
I have one sole request.....  
For my 'FOREVER FAMILY'  
Who'll make me feel my best.*



## Sam

Handsome young German Shepherd X Sam has been waiting patiently for someone to give him a chance. He will need to go with an experienced, older family or couple who can give him the time, training and patience needed to make him a wonderful addition to their family. Sam is just longing for the right home to come along where he can relax and be happy.

### A Special Plea from Sam

*I'm the lively, bouncy Sam,  
Yet soft and gentle as a lamb.  
I love to run & play it's true,  
Might I do all that with you??  
I'd like to learn new things as well,  
Both indoors and out.  
I am just so intrigued to know,  
What life's all about!  
So if you'd like a big 'ole softie,  
With grand ears to match...  
Then come & say 'hello' today.  
I am the perfect catch!!  
Love & very big kisses from Sam. xxxx*

## Prince



Poor Prince is still waiting for his forever home and it breaks our hearts to see him looking so sad and restless in his kennel. He's still only a young boy and would love to be adopted and trained with someone who has the time, patience and commitment to devote to his development and wellbeing, as he can be a little wary of new situations. Prince is such a loving dog with so much potential and we are all just longing for him to find his forever home where he can finally experience the happiness and relaxation he deserves.

### A Special Plea from Prince

*My name is Prince -- boy that sounds grand,  
But I don't need a royal land!  
Just a cosy home like yours, Where I'll feel wanted & adored.  
I don't aspire to jewels & riches, Or a kingly throne.  
Just a caring, loving place, A pad to call my own.  
I'm full of life & vigour, I'd love to go to school.  
If you could take me training, That would be really cool!  
Please don't do what I'm used to, Pass by without a glance.  
But ask if you can meet & give this HANDSOME Prince  
a chance!*



## Frankie

Frankie is a handsome medium sized 5 year old crossbreed looking for a new home, as his owners had a change in circumstances. Frankie is a good-natured boy who in the home is a

delight; he's house trained, very loving and seeks a lot of attention and cuddles. Frankie does however have a number of fear related issues, so would need a new home where someone has lots of time available to dedicate to his training and have plenty of experience with similar dogs in the past. Frankie would make a wonderful dog and will offer huge rewards to someone willing to give him 100%. If you would like to find out more about this lovely scruff ball then please contact us today!

### A Special Plea from Frankie

*I don't like life in kennels, It makes me really stressed.  
At home with loving people, That's where I feel my best.  
I need a special human, To love and care for me.  
I long for those home comforts, With lots of company.  
I know I'd be so happy, Living in a home.  
I'm really sick and tired, Of being on my own.  
So won't you please consider, Taking on Frankie?  
Cos being in a kennel, Is just not the thing for me!*



## Jake & Jill

Jake and Jill are approximately 18 months old and came from a home with lots of other cats and have not been loved and nurtured, so they are very shy and withdrawn. They would benefit from a quiet home with people who have the time and patience to show them that the world is not a scary place. Since being at Holly Hedge they have made good progress and Jill has now learnt to enjoy a gentle stroke, whilst Jake will take treats from your hand when he's feeling brave! If you think you have what it takes to offer Jake and Jill a loving home, please come and meet them.

## Jo & Jess



Jo & Jess are two shy girls, aged about 18 months, looking for a quiet adult home. They were living in a multi cat household and probably didn't receive the attention they deserved. Because of this they are very wary of people. They are looking for a special new home with people who can give them the confidence boost they are longing for. If you think your home is just what they need, then please come and meet them.

### A Special Plea from Jo & Jess and Jake & Jill

*We all came from the same place,  
And now we live in twos.  
So we'd just love 2 separate homes  
Where we won't have the blues.  
No one ever looks at us,  
It makes us feel sad.  
But if you took us home with you,  
We'd be almighty glad.  
Our lives thus far have not been fun,  
So please just take it steady.  
And we will shower you with love,  
As soon as we feel ready.*



# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS



## Milo

Milo came into Holly Hedge clinging on to his very tearful owner for dear life. His front paws were wrapped around her neck, with his head resting on her shoulder.

*They rang me from Holly Hedge to say they had just the cat for me: a large, two year old, black and white "softie", called Milo. But did I want another cat? Although my beloved Louis had died some two years before, I was still mourning him. Nevertheless I decided to have a look.*

*How could I possibly resist those large, sad eyes that kept scanning the corridor outside the pen, hoping for the return of his former owner? It didn't take me long to sign the forms and settle Milo in a carrier for a two hour drive to the cottage that is our home in summer. His behaviour on the journey was impeccable.*

*Once home his initial shyness and reluctance to eat quickly disappeared. After a week Milo was no longer the quiet, withdrawn cat I had first met in the pen at Holly Hedge. Eyes that were full of fun, and sometimes mischief and defiance, now shone from his handsome face.*

*After a month Milo has taken over the household completely. His toys are strewn everywhere, much of our time is spent playing with him, and no ankle is safe from his gentle pounces. His latest trick is to hide behind curtains and to spring out on toys or unsuspecting passers-by.*

*Milo is happy and confident.....sometimes regal, sometimes kitten-like. What a change and what joy he has brought us!*

Linda

## Mick & Abi

Mick and Abi are the sweetest kittens and a wonderful addition to our family. Mick is Jack's kitten - he's ginger and white and full of affection. He was the smaller of the two and quite quiet at first, dominated by his big sister, but he's growing now and learning to give as good as he gets! Abi is Libby's kitten - tabby with flecks of ginger/tortoiseshell. She's very pretty, playful and also very affectionate. If they're not curled up in front of the fire, or on a lap, purring or sleeping, they're running around chasing and pouncing on each other and making us all laugh. Libby writes: 'I think that Abi's mum has taught her lots of different things because she has taught Mick how to use the litter tray, how to wash himself and how to play fight. Sometimes they even wash each other.' Holly Hedge have been great, really helpful and caring, and we would recommend

them highly to anyone looking for a kitten (or two!) to welcome into their home.

## The Fielder Family



## Mars & Pluto

Mars and Pluto were the most delightful duo in our cattery, and the whole staff fell instantly in love with them. They were friendly, charming and full of character - always waiting eagerly for some human company and a lap to sit on. As you can see, they are 'purrfectly' relaxed and contented in their new home, and they even sent us their very own update.....

Here's what their new owners had to say about them....

*Hello to everyone at Holly Hedge, We have settled in very well with our new family, having inspected the washing machine, dishwasher and tumble dryer and helped with the ironing and wrapping Christmas presents, we have decided to stay. The garden is just right and we love the view from the top of the gazebo into the field on the other side of the fence.*

*Next door but one have two indoor cats who we say hello to through their cat-flap and we like a game of tennis with their family. Mars, otherwise known as Monkey Face, managed to carry, in his mouth, a full size tennis ball into our house and up the stairs. It then bounced back down with him in hot pursuit!*

*Pluto, otherwise known as Bendy Tail, loves to sit on Mum's lap as much as possible and Mars loves to help Dad on the computer.*

*We have a lovely lady named Caroline looking after us when Mum and Dad aren't around and several of Mum's friends have visited us and some have brought presents.*

*Thank you for looking after us so well and for finding us a new home where we are dearly loved.*

Love and fishes  
from Mars and Pluto  
Morrant



# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS



## Ebony

Hello everyone, after seeing Ebony during our "cat cuddling" volunteering at Holly Hedge, we just knew she was the purrfect kitty for us and that she would love our home. She is now with us and we think very happy indeed. Here's a little update from Ebony...

*My name is Ebony, and I was at Holly Hedge where I was loved and cared for by all the wonderful people there and then Lizzie, Russ and Isabel came. They do cat cuddling here, and I give the best bear hug cuddles and just knew once they met me, they would love me too.*

*Lizzie came first and Emma introduced us, I cuddled in and fell asleep. The following week Isabel came and she thought I was adorable. Then I met Russ and he has the best neck to snuggle into. They visited me when my adoption was being sorted and told me that soon I would be going home with them.*

*The journey home was interesting for Lizzie and Russell - as I found my voice - I chatted all the way home. Within days I was settled and I have a forever home. I'm so loved and happy, it is amazing. I have a spot on the sofa right in the middle of everyone, and I get lots of cuddles. I always keep a paw on my new humans, to make sure they are there. It is certainly a very happy ending for me.*

*I have helped Isabel to decorate a cake and keep my new mummy company when she has to do her work in the office - although the work is taking a bit longer now. Looking forward to my first xmas in my new home.*

### Love from Ebony,

*(16 years young and looking fabulous!)*



## Ghost

Robin and I weren't particularly looking to get a pet, but when our friend Jenny mentioned that Holly Hedge had just had a few new arrivals and showed me a picture of Ghost... I instantly fell in love. I tried not to get too excited at the idea of taking him home though, as you never know how these things will work out. We organised to meet him and as soon as I held him... (and I know this is very embarrassing!)... I had a little bit of a cry because he was the cutest thing I had ever seen! Obviously at that point there was no way I was going to let him go. And my boyfriend Robin had pretty much decided before we even arrived that he was going to be coming home with us (having met him once before), so that worked out very well! We knew it would be a bit more difficult because he's deaf - but I think that's part of the reason we were so drawn to him really!

*The day we took him home I was expecting him to be very nervous and planned to give him time on his own in a smaller section of the house to get used to everything. But we learnt straight away that he is a very confident (and cheeky!) fellow! He wanted to go everywhere! He seemed to settle in remarkably well. So well, that he decided my head was the best place to sleep for the first week or so!*

*Because he's deaf he can't go outside on our street, so we have made sure he's got lots to entertain him inside. He spends a lot of his time in 'Boxtown' - a network of cardboard boxes, which seems to be his favourite thing ever! He loves to sit on the windowsill and people watch though... I think knowing that they can't actually get to him makes him feel like a cat king!*

*He makes me chuckle every day with his loud meow. Because he's deaf he sounds quite different to most cats and spends a lot of his time shouting! I love it though - wouldn't have it any other way!*

*Here's a few facts about our little Fuzzbutt (we don't really call him Ghost that often):*

- His best friend is woolly mouse (he takes him everywhere)
- He also loves ping pong balls!
- He loves to have his belly tickled
- He likes drinking water out of our glasses more than his bowl! (very cheeky)
- He seems to find super mario the most entertaining thing to watch, other than the washing machine!

*Basically, when Robin and I brought Ghost home, we always knew we would love him, but it took us by surprise how much we would love him! He seems to have made our little unit complete. Definitely a happy ending.*

### Bindy and Robin

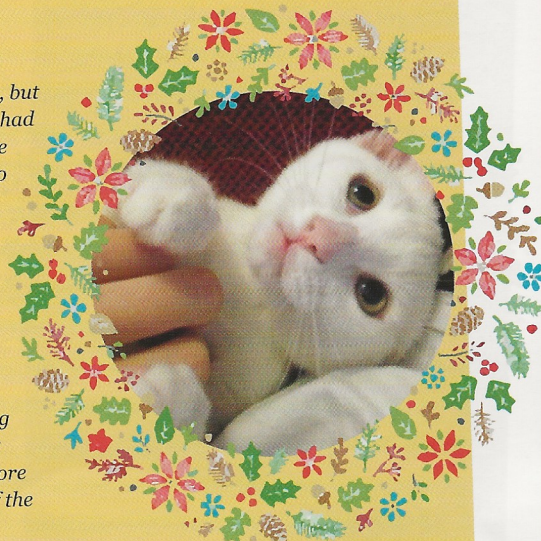
## Sam

Sam came to us after being in Holly Hedge for about two years. Being an older dog (seven) he was a bit set in his ways, and even he would admit he was a bit of a grump. Despite this, we decided he was the one from the start. Maybe it was the way he would put his feet on the counter of the office to say hello, or perhaps his handsome face. Either way, he came home with us shortly after.

*Having Sam as a rescue dog has been surprisingly easy. All he needed was a loving home to bring out the best in him. We say all the time what a lovely dog he is; he's so relaxed and happy to have a settled life. It's fair to say he is a bit of an opportunist when it comes to a bit of face licking and he has his funny little ways that make us laugh. He's quite famous in the area as he is a very active part of Neighbourhood Watch and spends many hours lying on the windowsill watching everyone, just to keep an eye on people. He is definitely a member of the family now and will not be going back to Holly Hedge (except for the occasional social visit).*

*If Sam could speak he would probably confess his love of Radio 4 and Midsomer Murders. He frequently lies on his back on your feet insisting to be stroked, and he makes sure you are unable to move - what else could we have to do other than endlessly stroke him?! His favorite pastime though is food and he is not fussy at all. Scotch pancakes have been known to disappear from the top of the microwave, and saucepans sometimes appear in his bed after being robbed off the side and licked. Who knows what he gets up to when we're out, all we know is that he is perfect for us!*

### Jenny and Steve





# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS



## Betty

My name is Betty although my new Mummy calls me... Baby, Pudding, Noodle and Gorgeous Girlie, to name but a few and my Daddy calls me Bubba. I really don't mind what I am called because I am at last loved and adored.

When I first saw my new Mummy and Daddy to be, I was at Holly Hedge. I didn't trust anyone and pretended to ignore them, until I was certain they loved me. They came every day to visit me and I made them wait for my trust; being a Jack Russell we are quite clever that way and all of us animals know that Humans have a lot to learn.

I didn't want to leave the safety of the rescue centre at first, but my Mummy and Daddy understood my anxiety and cuddled me all the way to my new home.

Now I go the beach to play every day and I have toys and blankets and lots of love and attention. I am never alone.

I send all of my love to my friends at Holly Hedge who rescued me and my biggest wish is that all the animals at Holly Hedge will be as lucky as me.

Betty xxx



## Jet & Lola

My name's Jet and, having arrived at Holly Hedge, I knew this was my chance of finally finding myself a nice new home, having been a stray for quite some time. But I was very worried that everyone visiting Holly Hedge would walk past my pen, as I wasn't looking my best. I had to have several broken teeth removed, a lot of matted fur shaved off, and then there was the problem of my watery eyes. And I suspect all my dribbling following my dental work was also putting visitors off. But then one day my (now) Mum arrived, and the minute she saw me, I knew that was it - she picked me up, gave me a big cuddle, and told me that I was the most adorable boy she had ever seen - I was thrilled!

Meanwhile Lola, the most beautiful white long haired cat I had ever seen arrived at Holly Hedge. She had come from a lovely home, but sadly her owner had developed an allergy to her so, like myself, she was also looking for a nice new home, and Mum and Dad immediately fell in love with her too.

Holly Hedge put Lola and myself together for a few days to make sure we'd get on, and then big sister, Lola and I moved into our new home, which is great - our owners adore us, I can't even remember life without them. We have heaps of toys to play with and get so much love and attention. And, even if I say so myself, I am now a very handsome chap - my fur looks lovely (I even have my own hairbrush now, I love being brushed), my gums have healed up and I'm feeling very confident and happy. I love curling up on my Mum's knee after a day going in and out of the garden and having the full run of the house, I'm even allowed to sleep on Mum and Dad's bed every night, as is Lola, although sometimes she prefers to curl up with Roland Rat on her radiator bed. The food is great, although I have recently found that they keep all the particularly nice stuff in a little brown bin in the kitchen, so on occasions I do try and rummage through it....

So thank you Holly Hedge for changing my life and finding me such a lovely home, and a nice new sister!

Love from Jet xxx



## Barney

Well good afternoon everybody! My name is Barney (aka Fat Puppy as my Mummy likes to call me as I am a little on the lardy side!) with my new big bro Jake who is also a Holly Hedge dog (I am the one of the left).

I love nothing more than spending my time chewing Jakes' ears (particularly the left one!), running around Leigh Woods pretending I can catch squirrels and whenever possible I try to snaffle packets of Lurpak butter off the kitchen work surface however Mum and Dad have now got wise to that trick.

I also love to pop to Cornwall for the occasional long weekend for a run along the beach and an occasional half a pint of Tribute.

Both Jake and I are eternally gratefully to Holly Hedge for finding us a new home which is full of fun, cuddles and toys and hope that many other dogs can lead the life we have.

Barney xx





# HEARTWARMING HAPPY ENDINGS



## Riley

Hi there everyone. My name's Riley and you may well remember seeing me on last year's newsletter as mine was the front cover feature story next to a picture of my sad and worried face.

Well what a difference a year can make...

In fact earlier in 2015 whilst I was whiling away the time in my kennel, a very nice couple walked past and to my amazement, I heard them say to the staff, 'We like the Sharpei.'

Surely they couldn't actually mean me, I thought to myself – nobody ever did. But how wrong was I? Before I knew it, I was being introduced to the people who were soon to be my 'forever hoomans'. It felt like a million magical Christmases had all come together at once! Then moments later, that long awaited and yearned for 'reserved' sign was pinned to my door. I could hardly contain my excitement and for once I could look optimistically into the future.

Very soon afterwards I packed my bags and off I went. And the rest...well that's history. Since arriving home I've never looked back and now really am literally living 'The Life of Riley'!!! I'm thoroughly loved and spoiled and feel so lucky to live close to lots of beautiful fields and countryside which I love to walk through when I'm not chilling out on my beds and sofas at home.

This picture was taken when I went back to see my friends at Holly Hedge for a visit. It was great to see all the people again who had looked after me so well and I think you'll agree that I now look a very relaxed and handsome happy chappie – even if I say so myself!!

Lots of love from Riley xx

## Alice

We had seen Alice on the Holly Hedge website but had overlooked her simply because she was old and we had intended to adopt a kitten or two. After meeting several lovely felines, we went in to say hello to her anyway. She quietly looked up at us with her slightly off centre gaze and we both fell in love immediately. We were warned that she had a few health issues and that she doesn't always make it to the litter tray, but we knew she would be worth it.

On the first day, Alice was understandably unsure of her new home so she found a safe place for herself under the stairs and was very quiet and on edge. But despite being an elderly, twice abandoned cat, her confidence soon grew. Less than a week later, she was jumping up onto our bed at 7am, obnoxiously walking over our pillows, licking our faces and meowing for food. She ditched her safe place under the stairs for an even safer place between us on the sofa. If we were eating cheesy or meaty food, she would have no fear in trying to climb over our shoulders and swipe it from our hands. If we got up to make a drink, she would steal our spot and then give evils upon our return. She has the ability to take up two spaces on a three seater sofa! If I wanted to check my emails in the morning before breakfast, Alice would be straight up on the desk, walking all over the keyboard, before standing in front of the screen and meowing directly in my face. Holly Hedge never warned me she'd be bossier than my parents!

As Alice is a senior we decided it wouldn't be safe to let her roam in the streets. We have a small garden that's perfect for her. Throughout the summer she would slowly potter around, smelling, listening and being mildly distracted by butterflies. She seemed happy, but we worried that she might be dreaming of bigger adventures. Purely by chance, our next door neighbour decided to replace our separating fence for the summer. He was one of the MANY people who had met Alice and fallen in love with her. He had to knock the old fence down, meaning Alice would have access to his garden. We asked him if he would please keep his back gate closed so Alice didn't wander off. He then not only closed the gate, but –left the last panel of the fence unfinished so Alice could have double the garden space to explore forever. She wanders next door for hours some days and we know she's safe and happy.

We don't know what life Alice had before she was abandoned, and after spending a year with her, still can't work out why anybody would leave her. All we know is that she is happy and comfortable now and she loves us. We know she doesn't have very long left with us on Earth, but we are so glad we could make her final days here warm, cosy and blissful. She has made us so, so happy and I hope we have done the same for her.

## Beth and Dan



## Patch

I decided having been widowed a month before to visit Holly Hedge to look for a pet to share my home. Having looked along the kennels I suddenly saw a note attached to one of the fences surrounding the kennels – it said –

### 'A PLEA FOR PATCH'

What followed really stirred my heart.... He had apparently been returned twice to Holly Hedge after family breakdowns and was very sad and unhappy because he was quite aggressive – and frightened of – other dogs.

### HE WAS LONELY.

I asked to see him, and with a helper we all went for a walk. I fell in love with him and he seemed to like me, because his tail never stopped wagging. After a few days I took him home and we bonded immediately – Patch is now my best friend, has two walks a day with a dog walker, but likes nothing better than settling down on the settee with me – his head on my lap – and one paw on my leg.

He is my lovely Patch and ever may it continue.

Eileen Fountain

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!



## How can you help?

There are so many different ways that you can help Holly Hedge and here are just a few of them....

- **Buy a raffle ticket in our Christmas raffle.** Tickets are available at the Sanctuary, in shops or can be ordered via phone or email.
- **Sponsor a kennel or cat pen.** Perhaps your company would like to sponsor one or perhaps you would like to sponsor one in memory of a loving pet?
- **Volunteer.** From helping at collections to assisting with events the volunteering possibilities are endless
- **Attend one of our events.** We have something for everyone from dance events to our fabulous Fun Day at Ashton Court
- **Take part in a challenge event.** From marathons to abseils we have something for everyone.
- **Take your challenge overseas!** Perhaps you would like to try the London to Paris cycle or trek the Sahara?
- **Fundraise at work.** Perhaps you would like to hold a coffee morning or consider us as your Charity of the Year?
- **Fundraise at school.** Hold a school dance or dress down day.
- **Give a collection tin a home.**
- **Leave a gift in your will.** Leave a legacy and help us give homeless animals that second chance.
- **Leave a gift in memory.** Perhaps you would like a plaque in one of our kennels or cat pens in memory of a loving pet?
- **Set up your own fundraising event.** We will support you on your fundraising journey and provide you with a great pack to help you.

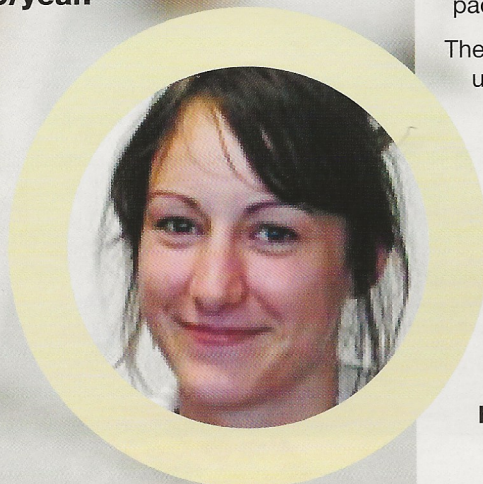
There are so many ways to support us and together we can make a real difference to the lives of these wonderful animals.

**If you would like more information on the different ways that you can support Holly Hedge please contact our Community Fundraiser Hannah and she will be more than happy to help.**

**Email:**  
[hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk)

**It costs over £8,500 a week to run Holly Hedge and our veterinary bills alone are over £75,000/year.**

**We receive no funding from the government or National Lottery and rely on the generosity and goodwill of our supporters to keep our kennel and cattery doors open. It is a continuous struggle for us to raise these funds but it is vital that we do so to ensure that we are able to provide help to the ever-increasing number of homeless animals in need.**



# FUN DAY

*Thank you to everyone who helped us with another successful Holly Hedge Fun Day. Once again the weather was on our side and it was a fantastic day out in the sunshine for both our two and four legged friends.*

It's always lovely to see all of our supporters gather together and a lovely opportunity to see some familiar faces and make new friends. We are pleased to announce that this year we raised over £8,500 at the event which is even more than last year and will help us to care for the increasing number of animals that need our help.

Our Holly Hedge dogs got to have a fab day out and so did the dogs of our supporters – we really loved seeing the post Fun Day photos that you all sent in.

We had more stalls than ever and more wonderful participants in the dog show – making it incredibly difficult for our judges to decide. And of course we could not forget our feline friends many of whom were entered in to our Furry Foto competition.

Once again we have so many wonderful people to thank, so please forgive us if we have missed anyone out, as everyone who helped make our Fun Day a success including our attendees is very important to us.

So with heartfelt thanks for all of the effort you have put in...

**Dianne Stephens** and **Nicola Bendall**, for spending so much time preparing, sorting and pricing up items in order to run their lovely stall in aid of Holly Hedge. They were also the first ones there helping set up and some of the last ones there helping us put everything away. Nicola was also kind enough to order all the trophies and rosettes for the day.

**Hartcliffe Motors** who were helping us from the early hours to transport our Fun Day equipment and set up at Ashton Court. **Clive, Eamon, Dave, Matt, Jack, Adrian, Stuart, Phil, Caroline, Lauren** and **Connor** were our team of dedicated helpers who arrived with their vans and before we knew it thanks to their help we were set up at Ashton Court ready to go. Not only did they help us unload and set up our goods but they even stayed on to help with the raffle throughout the day and then even helped us pack down everything and transport it back to the Sanctuary.

**Clive** and his lovely wife **Sheila** not only ran the raffle but were also incredibly kind by donating most of our fabulous prizes – and a special thank you to Sheila for keeping the Hartcliffe boys fed throughout the day.

Thank you to **Vale Vets** and **Alfie and Bella** for being our wonderful judges on the day – a special thank you to **Karen** from **Alfie and Bella** who came along with some lovely prizes for our four legged friends.

**Ken** and **Clair Simpson** once again sold an amazing amount of refreshments on their stall in aid of Holly Hedge, generating vital funds for the Sanctuary. Thanks also to all those budding bakers that donated delicious cakes to their stall.

We would also like to say a special thank you to **Ken** for the many hours he put in helping to plan the event which included hammering signs in to hard ground and marking out stalls in wet soggy grass!

**Susan** and **Barry Girling** did a fantastic job of manning the dog show tent especially considering the large increase in participants!

**Nicky Leeson** and **Valerie Hoare** ran the Dog Sprint (excuse the pun!) which was a fun addition to the day and helped us raise a great amount.

**Pip** and **Simon Sharp** were such a big help to us on the day. Simon managed the car park with the help of cadets **Dylan** and **Jamie**, and Pip ran the dog show for us, helping our judges to make some tough decisions!

**Lisa** and **Mark Rushin** for running the tombola in aid of Holly Hedge and for kindly donating the water for the event which saved a great amount of money for the Sanctuary.

**Philomena Joyner** for manning our Furry Foto competition and judging all the wonderful photos.

**Puuurfect Waste** for once again kindly giving us portaloos free of charge.

**Peblo Adito** was once again a big help throughout the day pitching in wherever he could and helped us greatly with our event application.

**Tania Taber** our wonderful designer who produced the posters, programme and Facebook banner to help promote the event. Tania does so much for us free of charge, helping us to save vital funds that can then be used on helping more animals in need.

**Christine** and **Nigel Sargent** ran the children's games again and helped raise funds for Holly Hedge.

**Pat** and **Malcolm Webb** were a huge hit as always with their agility show – we cannot thank them enough for coming to our event again.

**Carol Jones** and **Denise Evans** kindly held stalls in aid of Holly Hedge, thank you both, we are so grateful!

**Libby Humphreys** and **Sandie Bingley** spent the day running the information stand and selling some of our lovely Holly Hedge merchandise, thank you ladies!

**Mandy** and **Paul** both helped us set up and hand out floats to our lovely Holly Hedge stallholders.

**Stuart Atkinson** for being our photographer for the day – check out the Fun Day Facebook Album to see some of his fantastic snaps!

**Christine Basey** helped with the dog registration and had one of our lovely Holly Hedge dogs Betty sitting on her lap throughout the day.

**Andy** for once again kindly be watch dog overnight at Ashton Court.

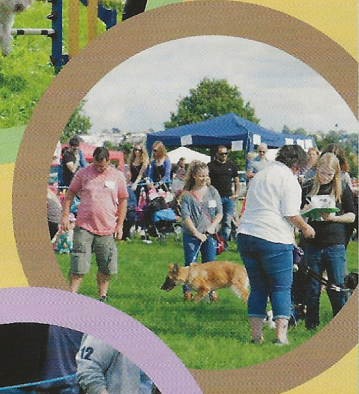
**Erin Millard** kindly stepped in on the day to help shake some buckets!

**Janet Temperton** once again did a fantastic job comparing the Dog Show and kept everyone well informed about Holly Hedge and Fun Day.

**Jan Matthews** was once again kind enough to be our onsite first aider and point of contact for lost children.

Thank you to **everyone** that made the day so spectacular including our wonderful staff and supporters – we could not do it without you!

**Next year we want our Holly Hedge Fun Day to be bigger and better than ever. If you would like to be involved in any way from holding a stall to volunteering or have any ideas for the day please email [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk)**



# OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP



## Text to Donate

Giving this Christmas could not be easier with our Christmas campaign text code.

Text HOLL33 followed by your donation amount to 70070 to donate to Holly Hedge and make a difference today.



## Christmas Cards

Our festive Christmas cards are in stock and are on sale in the shops and at the Sanctuary. There are various packs and they are priced between £2.50 and £2.75 with all profits going directly to Holly Hedge.

Please drop by to buy a pack. If you are not local then you can order via phone on 01275 474719 or email [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk) (please note that there will be a small postal fee for this).

## take to the skies

Do you want to take part in one of the most adrenalin pumping challenges available whilst also raising vital funds for Holly Hedge?

We will be sending thrill-seeking skydivers up to the dizzying heights of 10,000 feet for the jump of a lifetime.

No previous experience is required as you'll be attached to an instructor who is in complete control of your jump throughout so all you'll need to do is kickback and enjoy the ride. The jump itself will be officially adjudicated too so you'll be able to tell everyone you know you are a certified world record breaker!

We will be holding our main Holly Hedge skydive day on Sunday 27th March but you can choose to take part at any time of the year, at various airfields.

Email [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk) for more information or to book and receive your skydive fundraising pack.

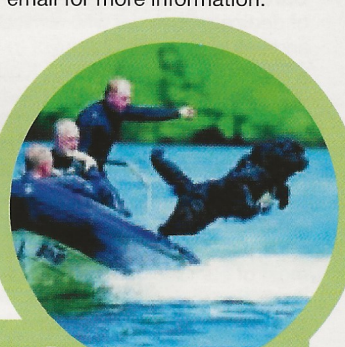


## Collections

We are incredibly lucky to have Dianne Stephens as a loyal volunteer here at Holly Hedge. For some time now Dianne has spearheaded our collection events and has helped raise a phenomenal amount of funds for the Sanctuary. Dianne is always on the lookout for kind people that can help on these collections so please if you can spare even just a couple of hours of your time to come and shake a bucket for our four legged friends please get in touch by emailing [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk)

## HOLLY HEDGE HOODIES AND T-SHIRTS

We are now stocked up with various colours and sizes of our lovely Holly Hedge hoodies and t-shirts, all proudly donning the Holly Hedge logo. Please pop in to the Sanctuary or give us a call or email for more information.



# NEWFOUNDLAND WATER RESCUE

This year's Newfoundland Water Rescue took place on 11th July and was another sunny event in the Holly Hedge calendar.

The event took place at Portishead Marina during their Festival on the Quay event so there was lots of fun to be had for families throughout the day.

The Newfoundland team took a brave number of participants out to the water who then jumped the decks to be rescued and taken to shore by the lovely Newfoundland dogs.

We are pleased to announce that David Pugh and his wonderful Newfoundland team have invited us back for 2016! If you would like to take part in this once in a lifetime challenge please email [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk)



# OVERSEAS TREKS AND CHALLENGES

Treks and cycles take place year round and in amazing countries all over the world so there truly is something to suit any adventurer. Whether it be trekking across the sand dunes of the Sahara Desert, or cycling from London to Paris we have the perfect challenge for you!

It's an incredible achievement to complete an overseas trek or cycle, and with a little training anyone can do it.

We have such an array of challenges to choose from here are details of what you can expect on our lost city of Petra challenge...

**Deposit: £199**

**Sponsorship level: £2,150**

The whole area is surrounded by hills and mountains ensuring a stunning view. No journey to Petra would be complete without a visit to Petra - now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it has been nominated by the BBC as one of the 40 places to see before you die.

## Day 1: UK - Amman - Petra

Depart the UK for Amman and transfer through the mountainous desert landscape to our hotel in Petra for the night.

## Day 2: Petra - Little Petra

Today we visit the magical and fascinating Unesco World Heritage Site of Petra, a city carved into the mountains and subsequently lost for hundreds of years.

## Day 3: Little Petra - Wadi Gnai - Wadi Bageh

After a hearty campfire cooked breakfast we ready ourselves for the day of trekking ahead. Today we cross some truly magnificent landscapes as our journey takes us through Little Petra, a Byzantine caravan station.

## Day 4: Wadi Bageh - Ghbour Whedat - Shkaret Msaed - Dead Sea

The landscape is flatter today crossing local farms and Bedouin sites. Tourists are rarely seen here and trekkers are welcomed by the locals.

## Day 5: Dead Sea - Amman - UK

Take advantage of the medicinal properties of the Dead Sea and float in this incredible expanse of water, so heavily laden with salt you will find it impossible to sink.

There are still some places available on the next Petra Desert Trek please email [Hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk) to book or enquire about our other challenges.



Due to popular demand,  
Holly Hedge's next **40s  
VE DAY WARTIME PARTY**  
will be held on Friday 27 May  
2016.

Venue to be announced soon!

So come along and listen/dance to the sounds of a 15-piece Big Band playing all the swing numbers and meet a Normandy Veteran!

Tickets limited so get yours ASAP!

## RUN FOR HOLLY HEDGE IN THE 2016 BATH HALF

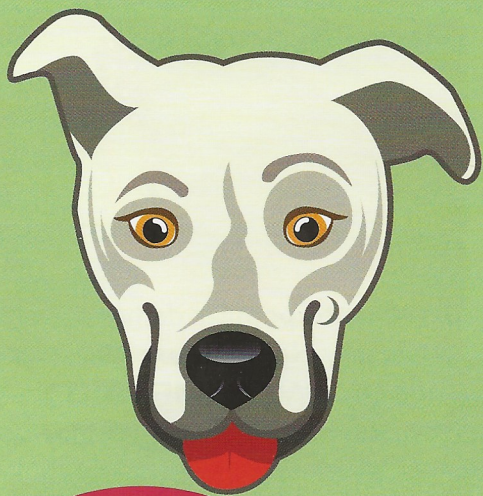
On 13th March the Vitality Bath Half Marathon will take place. 'Bath Half' as it is affectionately known, is one of the longest established and most popular city centre road events in the UK. It is also the largest charity fundraising event in the South West region.

The course itself is fast and flat making it suitable for all abilities – for beginners whose key objective is to complete the course, to more regular long-distance event runners, looking to beat their personal best time. It covers a two lap 13.1 mile (21.1km) traffic-free course straddling both sides of the River Avon. The race starts and finishes in Great Pulteney Street, in the heart of the World Heritage City of Bath.

If you would like more information on taking part in this excited event or for details on other runs taking place throughout the year please email [hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk](mailto:hannah.wozniak@hollyhedge.org.uk)



# STAFFY AWARENESS STROLL



Staffies are unfortunately tarnished with the negative image of being aggressive and nasty dogs yet this beautiful breed are loyal, affectionate and cuddly.

These loveable little characters make fantastic family friends and adore their little human companions. In fact they are one of only two breeds recommended as being excellent with children and were previously referred to as "The Nanny Dog".

There has been a big increase in the number of Staffies/Staffie Cross breeds in rescue and this lovely breed make up around a third of the dogs that come into the care of rescue centres like us here at Holly Hedge. We had approximately 53 Staffies/Staffie crosses in our care last year. They all, of course deserve a second chance in life to prove what a loving and loyal friend they can be.

Holly Hedge teamed up with Battersea Dogs & Cats Home with our "Staffies are softer than you think" campaign. We hoped that our Staffy Awareness Week, which we ran from 18th October to the 25th October would help change people's negative perceptions of this beautiful, amazing breed.

Our week included sharing some beautiful and heart-warming stories of wonderful Staffies that had been adopted from Holly Hedge and some videos to show how loving they are both with their human and animal companions.

To end our week, we held our annual Staffy Stroll at Ashton Court on Sunday 25th October. A stunning parade of staffies of all different shapes, sizes and colours strolled a route around Ashton Court to show how friendly and amazing these dogs are. Many walked beautifully alongside their young human companions showing why they earn themselves the title of "Nanny Dog".

We were joined by some ex-Holly Hedge Staffies which was a joy to see what healthy, happy and loving lives they now lead.

All dogs were beautifully behaved, even stopping to pose for a group photo! What a credit to their owners all dogs were and they definitely succeeded in changing some people's opinions of the superb Staffie breed!

**We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Pip and Simon Sharp for running this event and for all that they do for Holly Hedge.**



This is Missy, an 11 year old staffie dumped in the pound with just some newspaper and a chewed up plastic bed being her only comfort. Looking like she had given up all hope on life, Missy was awaiting her fate of being put to sleep.

That was until Holly Hedge offered her a rescue space and saved her life. Pip and Simon two staffy loving volunteers drove the four hour round trip to collect Missy from the pound and take her back to Holly Hedge; there she would receive the best veterinary treatment and be well cared for.

Missy became famous very quickly, as all the Holly Hedge facebook supporters fell in love with her and followed her story from the start. Missy's story made so many more people aware of the plight of poundies who were simply dumped, forgotten about and awaiting a horrible fate.

Right from the start, Missy's soon to be new owner was following her tale. This is her story of how she fell for Missy...



My life was turned upside down this time last year when I lost my beautiful German Shepherd Ice and Maddie lost her soul mate.

I never thought I would be able to love another dog after Ice until this little face was added to my timeline.

This sad looking little staffie called Missy was staring straight at me. She looked so sad and unloved and something made me read her sad story. Well, I immediately realised that she could be the answer to cheering up Maddie. After registering my interest that I wanted to foster her I arranged to attend Holly Hedge and meet her. It was love at first sight! My home check was done and I was approved for Missy's new home.

But something had changed for me by then I no longer wanted to foster her, I decided I was going to adopt her!

Even knowing Missy had health issues it made me more determined to give her the perfect home she deserved. She has been with me for a year now and she's the love of mine and Maddie's life.





# STAFFY AWARENESS STROLL



We first met Belle when she was brought to the safety of Holly Hedge as a young puppy with a severely wounded leg. In fact, her leg was so badly injured that no amount of surgery could have saved it and our vet had no choice but to amputate. In spite of all the pain and discomfort she must have been in and the trauma she had been through, Belle never let this get her down and she had nothing but love and kisses for everyone she met! She also managed perfectly well on 3 legs and clearly wasn't going to let her past prevent her from looking optimistically to the future. For quite some time she was our 'Office Dog' and there was nothing better than being greeted by those adorable eyes every morning! After a while, a lovely family also fell for her charms and, to our great delight, never looked back.

Here's what they've said about their little angel.....

*Let me introduce you to Belle. When we first arrived at Holly Hedge, we were actually looking to get a cat! But my other half fell in love with Belle as soon as he saw her. I was somewhat apprehensive about her, (staffies have THAT reputation, which I can honestly say they don't deserve!) We were asked if we wanted to take Belle for a walk, and my other half jumped at the chance before I had any opportunity to say "No"! What sold me on Belle was the way she was with Bonnie, our little girl! (who was 19 months old at the time.) Belle picked up her ball, placed it gently at Bonnie's feet, and sat down waiting to play! We played Ball for a little bit and went on to look at other dogs, but we kept coming back to Belle! Eventually we went back to the office and told them we were interested in a dog, and when we said we wanted Belle, I thought the girls in the office were going to faint! We met Belle on 24th of June, and she came home with us on the 26th! She settled in so easily, falling asleep in the living room within 5 minutes of getting there! She fits in so perfectly with our quirky little family, we just can't imagine life without our Bobo!*

*Amy, Jason, David, Harley, Bonnie and Belle (woof!)*

Poor Ruby spent months in kennels, constantly being overlooked and passed by. Like all our staffies at Holly Hedge, she craved human company and affection and was just desperate for that special 1-1 time with staff and volunteers. Towards the end of her residency at the Sanctuary and as one of our 'long stayers' she was lucky enough to become the 'Office Dog' where she could experience more of a home from home environment with people constantly around her during the day, a choice of beds to sleep in and her very own garden. And what a wonderful ambassador she was – greeting all visitors with her beautiful big brown eyes, her enthusiastic tail wags, (and all over body wags), and of course that irresistible STAFFY SMILE.

Her computer skills were pretty good too! As long as all that technical stuff could be accompanied by lots of cuddles! She was also a dab hand at helping out in the laundry room, and in the kitchen!!

Then one day, Ruby's fortunes really took a turn for the better. Having charmed a gentleman who was looking to rehome a rescue dog, she had finally got that all important reserved sign pinned on her door and was all set for a fresh start in her forever home.

After a couple of months it was time for me to see Ruby for her 'follow up' visit. On arrival, she was fast asleep in her bed, but soon woke up and seemed very proud to welcome me into her home. She was definitely excited and happy to have a visitor, but there was none of the frantic leaping that often used to take place in her kennel, as she is now a very relaxed girl in a caring, secure home. This time she just sat on my lap, wrapped both her front paws around my shoulders and smothered me with staffy kisses! She wasn't sad about me leaving her, as she now has her devoted owner whose side she barely leaves. Apparently she will even push him out of bed in the morning if she's feeling like an early breakfast! But he never bothers to close his door as Ruby knows just how to open it and does prefer a human bed to sleep on at night time! She is also well known in the neighbourhood and extremely popular.

As I left, (reluctantly) a little face was peering out at me through her garden fence as if to say, 'I'm fine now' and I thought 'In that case, so am I!'



I was found in the woods when I was still very young, I was under a year old. I was scared, cold, pregnant and alone. I was taken to a place of safety where I was told by lovely people that I was safe now and that I would be okay. But how could I trust them? I'd never known a safe environment, humans had already let me down and abandoned me. I'd never known love or the kindness that people can show me. All I'd ever known was that I was scared and that I needed to defend myself against people who would hurt me.

All I could show was aggression but this was because I was so frightened, I had no idea how to behave around these people who were trying to help me. I would bark constantly and lunge at anyone who came near me.

After I had been at Holly Hedge for a while, I gave birth to the most stunning litter of puppies. Physically they were all like me - 'mini Myas' with their little white bodies, black patches and beautiful dark brown, shiny button eyes.

But unlike their doting mother, they were completely fearless and full of fun, as they had only ever experienced the kindness of people at Holly Hedge, who adored them all as much as I did. Naturally I was very protective of them and everybody told me what an excellent mother I was. One by one, my babies went off to their new homes with their loving families where they could continue to live in the safe, caring surroundings they deserved. So that left me behind in the kennel, sad and alone once more, not knowing what the future, if anything, had in store for me.

I really loved the staff at Holly Hedge because I had quickly learnt to trust them and knew they'd look after me for as long as it took before they could find me my 'forever home'. But I still found strangers extremely scary, as I couldn't be sure they wouldn't hurt me. When other people walked past my kennel, all I could do was bark in order to protect myself, and then they'd quickly walk on by to the next dog, leaving me looking worried and confused all over again.

And so this went on for what seemed like an eternity. But the staff at Holly Hedge never gave up on me and were always keen to introduce me to new people so that I could have more friends with whom I felt happy to go out walking in the woods. It only took one careful, sensible session with a staff member to introduce me to a new hooman, and then I'd be their friend for life. I loved it when other people took me out for walks and afterwards, if I was lucky, they'd spend time cuddling me in my kennel and often I'd fall fast asleep on their laps, enjoying the comfort of a tender stroke and being softly spoken to. Playing with tennis balls in the gardens was another of my favourite pastimes. I'd collect as many tennis balls as I could and try to sneak them back into my kennel – the other dogs must have wondered where they'd all disappeared to!

One day a special, lovely couple came to meet me, but again I didn't know who they were and whether they would hurt me so I lunged at them. I felt sad as they seemed so lovely and nice but I had scared them. I was very surprised when the following weekend they came to see me again!

No-one else had ever wanted to see me again after first meeting me so I was really amazed when they came again the next weekend as well and for once I sensed a glimmer of hope for the future. I couldn't believe it as this was something that only ever happened to the other dogs at Holly Hedge! This very special couple returned to see me every week for 5 months allowing me to slowly get to know them and play ball with them! They would bring a handsome boy Staffie called Boris with them to visit me, he was quite nice too! I was allowed to visit Boris's home twice and we got on really well!

One day I went to see Boris's home and I have been here ever since. I found it very strange and difficult being in this new environment as I had spent so long (over a year) living in a kennel. I didn't know how to behave or what these humans expected from me. Going for walks was really terrifying for me as I had no idea about the outside world and what was going to happen to me as I am so terrified of new people.

The lovely behaviourist from Holly Hedge has been out to see me since I've been here and she talked to my hoomans about me. Both me and Boris have had another lady visiting us, I think she's helping my hoomans to help teach me how to be a nice young lady.

I'm truly loving my new brother Boris and we play together lots! He is teaching me that it is safe in this new house and that I don't need to worry or be afraid. I'm slowly bonding with my mummy too and learning that she won't hurt me. It will take me time to learn to trust again and be able to go for walks without being scared. I am so grateful to the hoomans at Holly Hedge who took me in and never gave up on me and to my new family who have shown me what love is and that I can be safe and happy.

*Lots of love from Mya xxxxx*

# VOLUNTEERING

"We started volunteering at Holly Hedge in January 2013. We had collected many food, toy and blanket donations through work and took them up at Christmas time. We met the lovely staff in reception and got an opportunity to look around and learn more about the great work Holly Hedge do. We also met some of the animals in their care and found out about their heartbreaking stories of why they were at the Sanctuary. Seeing all of these gorgeous animals who all had a sad tale to tell and just needed a second chance in life really broke our hearts and inspired us to want to become more involved.

We were lucky enough to adopt our beautiful dog, Ruby, from Holly Hedge and she like many other animals there had a bad start to life. She gives us so much joy in our lives and we want all of the animals that come to the Sanctuary to also have the opportunity to find their forever home and give their forever families the joy a rescue animal can bring.

In November 2014, we made an amazing journey to West Wales to collect a beautiful 11 year old Staffy, Missy who had the misfortune to end up in the pound. Luckily Holly Hedge were able to offer her a rescue space otherwise she would have been put to sleep. This poor girl had so much more love to offer and it was a delight to be able to collect her and drive her to the safety of the Sanctuary where she would be well cared for and found the perfect loving forever home. Its experiences like this that really motivate us to continue volunteering.

We enjoy all the different aspects of volunteering we have done over the years including supermarket collections, home checking, helping in the office and organising fundraising events.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers who all work hard to support the staff and animals and it's wonderful to be among like-minded people who all have a passion for animals and making a difference to their lives.

**There are many different roles a volunteer can take on, this ranges from dog walking/cat cuddling, maybe you're an office angel who could help in reception? Or maybe you like to organise events and raise money. However small a bit you can do, it will make a big difference to the animals in Holly Hedge's care".**



Missy

tania taber design



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# THANK YOU!

**Thank you to  
all of our wonderful  
friends and supporters!**

As always we could not do the work we do without the kindness our wonderful supporters.

We would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to our team of fabulous volunteers who are always eager to lend a helping hand whether it's standing shaking a bucket or holding a stall at our Fun Day event.

**Laura Powell**  
has so far raised  
**£1175.65** for Holly  
Hedge on her online  
fundraising page.

**Tania  
Taber** for  
organising a great  
VE day event! The party  
was a huge success and  
brought in an astonishing  
**£3,159.59**. The 40s bash  
was so popular that we  
advise getting tickets  
for 2016's ASAP!

**Pip  
and Simon  
Sharp** helped raise  
awareness and over  
**£80** in funds at their  
lovely Staffy stroll at  
Ashton Court.

**Bob  
Croker** cycled  
from Lands End to  
John O'Groats and  
raised an amazing  
**£573.11** in the  
process.

**Steph  
Keedwell**  
raised an amazing  
**£326.83** by taking  
part in an exhilarating  
sponsored skydive.

Our  
wonderful team  
of **volunteer collectors**,  
led by the lovely **Dianne  
Stephens** who does so much for  
the Sanctuary. So far this year these  
collections have raised **£6790.54**  
which is a fantastic amount! We cannot  
thank Dianne and her volunteers enough  
for their dedication and support and  
would also like to thank the various  
supermarkets and other locations  
for letting us collect on their  
premises.

# THANK YOU!



Holly Hedge has so many people to thank for their support, and it is impossible to thank everyone individually, so those that don't get mentioned in this newsletter, please bear with us until next time!

Faithful volunteers **Dianne Stephens** and **Nicola Bendall**, who work tirelessly organising and participating in shop collections and table top sales almost every weekend, whatever the weather!

**Nicky Leeson** – not only is Nicky a Trustee and established cat cuddler and dog walker, she gives regular talks about Holly Hedge helping us to promote the fantastic work that we do. Nicky is always on hand to help us whenever she can including carrying out home checks, running the doggie sprint on Fun Day and writing out endless thank you letters for us.

**Laura Powell** – Laura puts in so much time helping us run our Facebook page. She has increased our social media presence immensely and we know our supporters always look forward to reading her heart warming posts.

**Pip and Simon** – Pip and Simon do so much for Holly Hedge including helping at Fun Day, running the Staffy Stroll and generally pitching in at all our events when they can – thank you so much both of you!

**Ken and Clair** – Ken and Clair have run the Holly Hedge Fun Day refreshment stand a few times now and have managed to generate substantial amounts of income for the Sanctuary. Not only that, but they both often help at collections and Ken was an asset in the lead up to Fun Day.

**Sandie Bingley** – another of our Trustees also regularly helps out in our busy reception and pitches in at many of our events – we are so thankful for her help.

**Koro** - who has taken such brilliant photos for our Facebook and website – thank you so much!

**David and Sandy** – always there for our rescues and help Holly Hedge in so many ways too numerous to mention.

**Janet and Don Temperton** - for collecting numerous good quality items to sell in our charity shops as well as lots of dog and cat food. Janet also comperes at our annual Fun Day keeping the crowd entertained throughout the day. Janet is also another one of our Trustees.

**Bruce and Celia** – every week they give up their time to improve facilities for our rescues. Our cat garden looks amazing! Bruce and Celia also help with setting up before some of our fundraisers. They are superbly organised and helpful and we couldn't do it without them!

**Karen at Junction 18** – for all her support in donating lots of lovely items for our charity shops to sell. They are all brand new and are always very popular with our customers.

**Tania Taber** – without Tania, this newsletter would not be possible. Graphic designer extraordinaire, who for the last 20 years has kindly designed everything from our logo, to posters, Christmas cards and newsletters. Her art and design work is second to none, and you would think, with her amazing talent, she made lots of money! But no – Tania gives her time and expertise free to Holly Hedge and other animal charities, saving us thousands of pounds – a true and caring friend to all animals, and totally indispensable.

**Jennie Mann** – our Twitter lady who tweets away on Holly Hedge's behalf, we so appreciate you giving us your time.

**Linda Reeves** - our Legal Advisor (Honorary) for saving us a great deal of money by dealing with legal matters, and giving Holly Hedge the benefit of her expertise.

## Delivering Happiness

Discover what's out there and treat your dog with new treats and toys every month.

Try handbaked treats, organic chews, natural toys and innovative accessories delivered straight to your door!

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Your purchase also goes towards providing a support pack for a homeless or struggling dog owner, this helps the dog, the owner and reduce the demands on animal shelters.

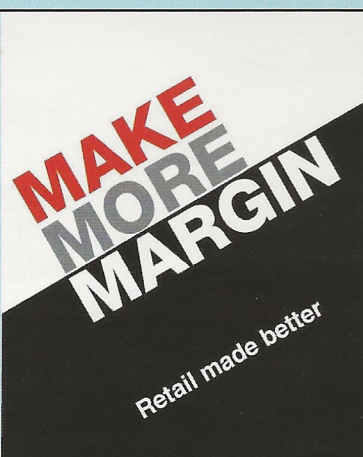


[www.thehoundhaus.com](http://www.thehoundhaus.com)

And last but not means least, our wonderful **Staff**, their devotion and dedication is second to none.

We would also like to thank all of our other **volunteers, corporate groups, home checkers, cat cuddlers and dog walkers** – you all mean so much to us!

And finally we would like to thank the staff for making Holly Hedge such a special place and helping to make life better for these wonderful animals.



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# Christmas Shoebox Appeal



**HOLLY HEDGE**  
Animal Sanctuary

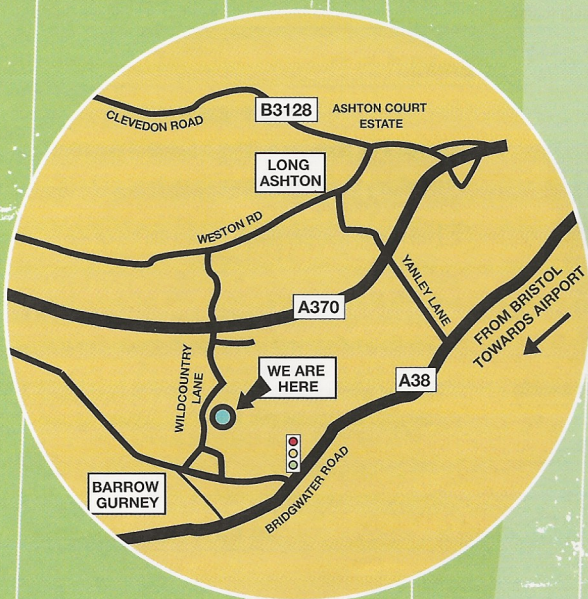
Providing shelter from harm and  
the promise of a brighter future



Holly Hedge have joined up with the **Animal Shoebox Appeal**, which asks that our supporters fill up a shoebox with animal related gifts such as **food, treats, toys, bedding**. **NO DRIED FOOD** please. Your shoebox can contain as little or as much as you wish (they don't even have to be in shoeboxes!).

Once your box is full, simply label **CAT** or **DOG** depending on its contents and you can drop the box directly to the Sanctuary or any of our charity shops **before Christmas Day**.

Christmas is always a challenging time for any charity. Your support will help to bring food and comfort to our animals without a family of their own this festive season.



Wild Country Lane, Barrow Gurney, Bristol BS48 3SE

Tel: 01275 474719 • [www.hollyhedge.org.uk](http://www.hollyhedge.org.uk) • Reg charity No: 294606



# DONATIONS!



At this time of year, when caring owners are looking to buy their much loved pet a special present, and extra special treats for them to tuck into on Christmas Day, please spare a thought for the many homeless and abandoned animals who will spend the festive season with very little to look forward to. At Holly Hedge we always have lots of hungry mouths to feed and we do our utmost to ensure all our rescues have extra special food and happy tummies during the festive season. Please help us fill our "begging bowls" by asking friends, colleagues, family or workmates to fill in as many bowls as they wish with a donation of either £2, £5, £10 or £20.



This bowl was filled by:

Tick for Gift Aid donation

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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## GIFT AID

### Are you a UK taxpayer making a personal donation?

With Gift Aid, your donation would be worth an additional 25% at no extra cost to you.

- Yes I would like Holly Hedge to claim Gift Aid on my donation
- I want all donations I've made to Holly Hedge in the past four years and all donations in future to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount claimed by all charities and CASCs in the tax year from HMRC. Council Tax and VAT do not qualify. Holly Hedge UK will claim 25p on every £1 you donate.

**YES, I want to help the animals at Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary. I enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to fill \_\_\_\_\_ bowls**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your donation and this page to: **Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary, Wild Country Lane, Barrow Gurney, Bristol BS48 3SE.**  
Cheques should be made payable to "Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary".