

2023/2024



wag

For dog lovers



Welcome

to another wet-snoot-filled edition of Wag.



We're back and Wagrier than ever.

Over the 12 months since our last edition, we've been hard at work housing, loving and head-scratching the nation's dogs. We worked with our friends at the RNLi to help keep you and your pup safe at the seaside (see page 6), supported the biggest EVER mass vaccination

drive in Cambodia (see page 9), and even spotted a couple more celeb lookalikes (see page 19).

This edition is dedicated to you, our loyal supporters, and all of the incredible work you've made possible with your generosity.

So, put your phone on silent, pop something cosy on and fill your boots with everything dog — you've earned it.

Team Wag xo

In this issue:

- Whatever it takes — going the extra mile for our dogs
- DIY treats and games for your furry friend
- Our advice for keeping your dog safe and happy all year round
- Hounds looking for loving homes
 - The race to eliminate rabies — creating a safer world for all
- Win big while raising pounds for pooches
 - And more dogs than you can wag a tail at

On the cover:

Clodagh and her canine carer Natasha at our Kenilworth centre. After just over three years with us, we're thrilled to say that Clodagh is now loving life with her new family. Photo by Scarlett Brophy



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Need a digital version of this magazine, or another format? Get in touch with us at wag@dogstrust.org.uk or give us a call.

Send us your pooch pics to wag@dogstrust.org.uk (high-res please!)

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®

Want more Wag?

For all our latest advice, news about our work, and pupdates from our furry friends, sign up to our monthly emails at dogstrust.org.uk/sign-up or by scanning this QR code.

To use this code, point your smartphone camera here (as if you're going to take a photo) then click the button that pops up.



Bertie

Happy rehomes

Buttons



Dora



Reggie



Axel



Dasher & Posie



Since our last issue, we've been hard at work finding loving families for thousands of pooches across the UK. Here are just a few of the good boys and girls now getting all the attention, treats and sofa space in their new homes.

Harvey & Jane



Red



Marshall



Tyson



Alfie

You may remember this handsome chap from our last issue



Whatever it takes

Every single dog that comes into our care is different. They each have their own story, needs and quirks. We provide the time, love and expert care needed to get our pooch pals ready for their forever home and to live their best lives, whatever it takes.

Here are just a few of the dogs who've needed extra support to get ready for their new lives.

Biscuit

In October 2020, a sweet girl called Biscuit arrived at our Kenilworth centre. This four-year-old Staffy Greyhound Cross was a bundle of energy and didn't seem to have had any training.

Biscuit would sometimes be too enthusiastic with her greetings and when she went for walkies, as she didn't know how strong she was. We knew we'd need to take some time to show her a calmer way to be on the lead and when meeting new friends.

Biscuit was shy around other dogs, unsure around groups of people and became anxious if her routine changed or she was left alone. Our expert staff created a training plan to support her through these issues.

It became apparent that Biscuit needed to live in a rural area with quiet walking areas, with a family who would all get involved with her training and walking. In May 2022, a young couple walked through Kenilworth's doors that fit this bill, and we found her the perfect match.

"When we visited the centre, Biscuit was the last dog we saw. As soon as she looked at us, we fell in love." say her new family.

After several visits, Biscuit was ready to go to her new home. Her family have continued her training, supporting her while she adjusts to her new life.



"We've spent a lot of time helping her with her separation anxiety and fear of other dogs," they say. Biscuit's now much more relaxed in her home and can be alone for a few hours on her own thanks to slowly increasing the time. She also meets other dogs happily, even playing with them off-lead – something that wasn't possible a couple of years ago."

"We still have work to do, but we've seen an amazing transformation in her first year. Even people in our village have commented on how far she's come."

"Adoption is the best decision we could have made. In return for the time and effort we've put into her training, she's given us back buckets of unconditional love. We're so happy she chose us!"



Drago

Drago came into our Manchester centre when he was six years old. He had lost one of his front legs in a car accident two years before, so needed specialist care and a slower pace of life.

He was a little shy at first, but as we got to know Drago, we quickly learned that he was a gentleman of leisure. Pottering around the garden, eating local delicacies (treats) and lounging on a soft duvet were some of his favourite things to do. We kept his walks short at ten minutes each, as he struggled with anything much longer.

It took Drago a bit of time to warm to new people, but after some patience, he loved a gentle fuss.



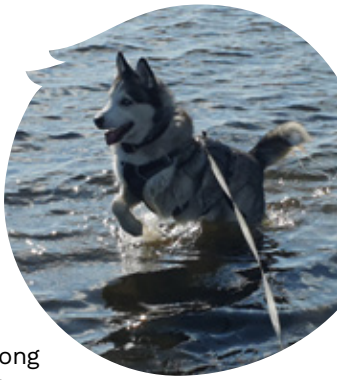
After taking the time to get to know Drago and the type of home he'd need, we were able to match him with Cat and John. As soon as the pair saw this handsome chap, they knew he belonged with them.

"Drago has changed our lives so much, but in all ways for the better."

Drago's new family soon discovered that he was a picky eater. But after some patience, hard work and support from our Manchester centre staff, he now enjoys a varied diet to keep him strong and healthy for many years to come.

We're so happy to report that Drago is loving his new life. Cat and John have adjusted to the fact that Drago has claimed the best spot on the sofa, but the loving bond they've created with him more than makes up for that.

"Nothing will beat seeing him run into the sea for the first time or realising he can still dig in the sand with only 1 front paw (proud mum moment!) We love him so much. Every day spent together is special, and we can't wait for what the future holds."



Bernie

When Bernie arrived at our Harefield centre, his first stop was a full health check with one of our expert vets. We discovered he had a nasty ear infection and gave him the treatment he needed to feel like himself again.

After a good rest, some snacks, and a few head scratches, we started to get to know this handsome, sensitive chap.

Shy by nature, lots of things worried Bernie, including other dogs, new people, and cars. Our staff made a training plan specifically for Bernie to work through his nervousness, and over the 11 months that he was in our care he made great progress.

When searching for Bernie's forever home, we knew he'd need a quieter area and would need to continue with his training in the home.



It was love at first sight when Carole and family spotted Bernie on our website. After eight meetings with Bernie, alongside his best pal, canine carer Patricia, it was time to go home.

Carole says, "It was a very sad goodbye with lots of tears, but Bernie jumped straight into the car and looked forward through the seats as if saying 'let's go start my new life!'"

Bernie had possibly not lived in a home before and found it hard to relax around his new family at first. With support from our behaviour team, and some love and patience from his new family, he soon started to settle into his new life.

Bernie now spends his days enjoying walks and sitting in the sun, followed by evening snuggles on the sofa watching his favourite TV shows.

"Having a rescue dog makes life so much more rewarding. Seeing him blossom into his true self is such a beautiful experience. Bernie has taught us so much about what life is really about. I will forever be glad I gave him a home."



Sea, shores and sandy paws

We all need a beach getaway once in a while, and our pets are no different. Whether you catch the elusive British sunshine or not, a seaside holiday is time well spent with your furry friend.

Before you leap into your frolicking furball's good books with a spontaneous seaside getaway, paw a line in the sand by following our tips to keep your woofers wagging on the waterside.

Keep your pup safe on the sand

- Bring treats so you can swap any dodgy bits your curious canine picks up with a safe snack.
- Dogs shouldn't drink sea water as it can cause sickness or saltwater poisoning. If your dog uses the sea as their water bowl or eats anything else they shouldn't, like seaweed or plastic, call your local vet.
- After the beach, rinse any sand and seawater off your mucky mutt's coat and paws so it doesn't build up and cause irritation.

Handling and emergencies

- Check tide times before a coastal walk to avoid getting stranded. These can change quickly throughout the month, so be alert.
- Keep your wagging wanderer on a lead near cliff edges and fast-flowing water, or on the beach if they haven't mastered recall. Tip: long leads will let them explore safely.
- If your dog goes into water, over a cliff edge or gets stuck in mud, don't go after them. Move to somewhere your dog can reach safely and call them. **If worried, call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard.**



Your next beach break could help us continue our vital work

We're celebrating 20 woof-tastic years of pooch-friendly getaways with Dogs Trust Holidays. In that time, your bookings have helped raise an incredible £1.2million for the dogs in our care. **Thank you!**

For every booking made via dogstrustholidays.co.uk we receive 10%, so why not doggy paddle into your next holiday today.

To find the perfect seaside escape for you and your furry friend, check out the Dogs Trust Holidays guide to pet-friendly beaches: dogstrustholidays.co.uk/pet-friendly-beaches

Surf's pup!



Easy-bake banana paws



Your furball will wiggle their behind for these pooch-friendly banana biscuit bites. Ideal for those cosy afternoons snuggling on the sofa, or as a picnic nibble on woodland walkies.

You'll need:

- 1 banana
- 2 eggs
- 240g wholewheat flour
- 125ml of water



What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C.
2. Chop the banana, then mash it.
3. Crack the eggs into a bowl and whisk.
4. Combine the banana, eggs, water and flour in a bowl.
5. Mix to create a dough.
6. Roll the dough out to 1cm thick.
7. Cut into shapes using a cookie cutter of your choice.
8. Space evenly on a baking sheet.
9. Bake for 18-20 minutes.
10. Leave to cool and let your woofers enjoy.

When making these treats, reduce your dog's usual food portion so that they're not overfed. If you're concerned about giving your dog new foods, speak to your vet before baking.



Loving homes wanted



We take in dogs from all sorts of backgrounds and do everything we can to find them a forever home. Some dogs need extra training, ongoing veterinary treatment or a specific living situation to suit their needs, so it can take longer to find a family that's right for them.

These are our 'Underdogs'! As we never put a healthy dog to sleep, they'll always have a warm bed, a lap to curl up on and all the treats they need, until they're ready for us to find them a home to call their own.

Here are some of the pooches who have been waiting a long time for their happily ever after. Could you give them the loving home they deserve?

To find out more about any of these dogs, visit dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming. At the time of going to print, all these good boys and girls were still in our care. If they're no longer on our website, it means they've already headed off to a new home!

I'm an Underdog

Pets at Home VIP members provide treats for our deserving doggos



While these dogs wait for their special someone, our staff keep them happy and healthy with lots of training, playtime and love. And toys and treats are never in short supply, thanks to Pets at Home's VIP members.

By becoming a VIP member and choosing your local Dogs Trust as your Lifelines charity, you support us every time you shop at Pets at Home. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/petsathome



Charlie, Shoreham

Cheeky Charlie's ideal home will be a quiet and peaceful place, with a consistent routine. He can't live with any other pets, but he'd love some calm walking buddies. He needs committed adopters who will respect his space, and he'll pay them back tenfold with his charm.



Sausage, Snetterton

Sausage is a Labrador Spaniel Cross with heaps of personality and a passion for tennis balls. He needs his own garden for fun and games, and a new family who are willing to take the time to get to know him. Once he knows he can trust you, he'll be your very best friend.



Benny, Kenilworth

Bouncy Benny is a bright boy who's looking for a quiet life. He loves human company but needs a patient, adult-only home with minimal visitors so he can feel safe and comfortable. If you're willing to put in the work with Benny, it will be incredibly worth it.



Parsley, Leeds

Parsley came to us as a shy stray but (thanks to the hard work of our training team) has blossomed into a playful little lady. She needs a patient, dedicated new family to continue her training, and a predictable routine that includes plenty of playtime!



Kiko, Cardiff

Kiko is an intelligent girl who's looking for a new home where she can enjoy lots of games, enrichment and training. She doesn't like the company of other dogs, so needs to be the only pooch in her new pad, and has to wear her muzzle for walks. She's fully muzzle trained and happily wears it, as she knows it means adventure ahead!

The race to eliminate rabies



We're working towards the day when all dogs can live happy, healthy lives. This work takes us all around the world to wherever our help is most needed. A key focus of our attention is a deadly disease called rabies, which took us to Cambodia earlier this year for the biggest ever mass vaccination drive.

- What is rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the central nervous system. It affects both animals and humans. Symptoms can include restlessness, aimless wandering, lethargy, drooling, exaggerated reaction to sounds, aggression and paralysis. Once symptoms appear, rabies is always fatal.

- How is rabies caught?

Rabies is caught through infected saliva. The main way is from a bite by an infected dog.

- How serious is rabies?

Rabies is not currently present in the UK, but tragically it still kills 59,000 people every year around the world. It's the world's deadliest disease, resulting in the death of hundreds of thousands of dogs each year, and of a child at least every nine minutes.

- What can we do about rabies?

Rabies is 100% preventable through vaccination. That's why it's so important that dogs are vaccinated before they travel in or out of the UK, to stop the disease ever coming back here. In countries that still have rabies, mass dog vaccination is key to controlling the disease.

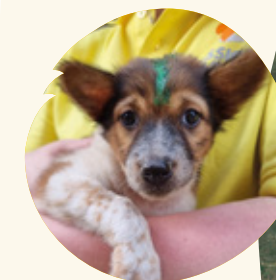
Mission Rabies is a project run by the WVS (now part of Dogs Trust) that aims to eliminate the disease in dogs and prevent human deaths. Mission Rabies have four pillars of work: vaccination, education, research and surveillance. Together, we are working towards our goal of eliminating human rabies deaths by 2030.

Our work in Cambodia

Cambodia, in Southeast Asia, has one of the highest rabies death rates per capita of any country in the world. In the capital, Phnom Penh, one child dies from rabies every week. To help change this, in May 2023, we were part of the biggest ever mass vaccination drive in Cambodia. Volunteers from across Dogs Trust, including our Chief Executive Owen, went to help, joining around 120 other international volunteers plus the local government and local charity partners on the ground.

To vaccinate lots of dogs in a short space of time, volunteers used an app to track their progress and collect data on each dog. The 100 volunteer teams made their way through districts and surrounding villages of Phnom Penh, going door-to-door and vaccinating owned dogs, as well as any free roaming dogs that they came across along the way. Vets and vet students carried out the actual vaccinations, while the other team members recorded the data. After 10 days, the groups in Cambodia managed to successfully vaccinate 74,872 dogs!

This map shows the area covered:



What's next?

Vaccination is the most effective long-term way to stop rabies and prevent dog and human deaths, so projects like this are crucial in the fight against the disease. With your support, and alongside our incredible partners and volunteers, we won't stop working until rabies is gone for good. Find out more at dogstrustworldwide.com

"Together we can eliminate this devastating disease."

Luke Gamble, Chief Executive of WVS



Kate and Toby

And I would walk 1,000 miles

Toby, the wonder dog, has taken to the hills to raise vital funds for his four-legged friends still searching for new families.

Toby, a two-year-old Collie Cross, came into our care after being found wandering the streets alone in April 2022. Luckily, it wasn't long before we found him a loving home with Kate, who knew instantly that she'd found a kindred spirit and fellow walking buddy in Toby.

The two best pals are now on a mission to walk an impressive 1,000 miles to raise money for other dogs in need.

Kate says: "Before Toby, I had three rescue dogs and really admire the work Dogs Trust does. They support dogs to live life to the full, and continue to be there for them even after they've found their forever home."

"A dog might need some extra support to help them cope with life, or they may have been badly treated and need some patience, love and understanding to build up trust. Whatever it is, Dogs Trust is there for them. So, I want to do what I can to support their work. Our main walks are often going uphill, so we thought 1,000 miles was a reasonable target. Hopefully we'll power on past it!"



Feel inspired to take on a challenge?

Each year, all over the country, hundreds of incredible people like Kate organise sponsored walks and other events to raise funds for the dogs in our care. We've seen everything from sponsored haircuts, bake sales and dog shows to long distance walks, cycles and swims!

If you're interested in organising a fundraising event, visit dogstrust.org.uk/fundraising or contact our Community Fundraising team at fundraisewithus@dogstrust.org.uk.

Here are some ways to get involved:

Fitmas Fun

Get sponsored to keep fit this December with our **24 days of Fitmas challenge**. Take on our daily challenges — from Christmas crunches to star jumps — and raise vital funds for our four-legged friends.



Scan the QR code to sign up now via our Facebook group and you'll receive a free advent calendar and Dogs Trust t-shirt too.

Run for Rover

Visit dogstrust.org.uk/running-events for more info on signing up to these events:

- London Landmarks Half Marathon 7 April 2024
- Brighton Marathon 7 April 2024
- London Marathon 21 April 2024
- Edinburgh Marathon Festival 25 & 26 May 2024
- Great North Run 8 September 2024



Thanks



Thank you so much to all our supporters who have been out and about fundraising for us this year. We think you're top of the pups!

Fostering friendship



Record numbers of dog owners are having to make the heartbreaking decision to give up their dog to us. Our dedicated foster carers help us to be there for as many of these dogs as possible.

We caught up with a couple of our fosterers to ask them how fostering for us has impacted their lives.

Elaine

Elaine, who fosters for our Kenilworth centre, has fostered 18 dogs since signing up in 2021. Dogs have ranged from two elderly terriers to a Norwegian Elkhound, and most recently a 9-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier called Peggy Sue.

"Being a foster carer is a joy. Providing a loving home for a dog while they wait for their new family is the absolute best feeling," says Elaine.

Sarah Hobbs, coordinator of the Home from Home fostering scheme at our Kenilworth centre, says that volunteers like Elaine make a huge impact: "Our foster carers give our dogs valuable experience of home life. Elaine has been able to tell us if a dog enjoys a daily routine, where they like to sleep, and all the things special to that dog."



Elaine



Jackie

Jackie

Jackie from Cardiff finds fostering combines the best of both worlds when it comes to enjoying dogs' company and her career. "I fell in love with the idea of fostering when I heard about it, as I grew up with a Chow Chow I adored."

Jackie adds, "It's difficult to commit to owning one now at the start of my career, but fostering makes it possible for me to still care for dogs." Time fostering dogs ranges from a few days to several months and is flexible around your life.

Jackie has been fostering for over a year and says she loves the mix of dogs she looks after. "My first was a beautiful Chow that reminded me of my old dog, then an English Bulldog, and now I have a Jack Russell cross Chihuahua."

Although the goodbyes can be sad, Jackie says her favourite part of the experience is watching them grow over time. "Seeing them come out of their shell is the best feeling in the world."

Could you welcome a temporary best pal into your life and give them the helping paw they need? We cover costs like food, vet care, bedding, and toys, and will support you through any training needs. For more information or to apply visit dogstrust.org.uk/foster

Whatever the weather

Keep your pooch happy and healthy all year round with these tried and trusted tips. For lots more dog care advice, visit dogstrust.org.uk

Spring

Put a spring in your step by trying out some new walks with your dog. Visit somewhere different, find a new route or add a few games — mix it up to keep it exciting. There may be new arrivals on your walking routes — look out for lambs and other young animals and put your dog on a lead to avoid disturbing them.

Doing some housekeeping? Check your dog's vaccinations, flea, tick and worming treatments, microchip and tag are all up to date too.

Summer

It's fun to get out in the sun but your dog could easily overheat in warm weather, so it's up to you to keep them cool.

- ☀ Make sure your dog always has access to shade and fresh water.
- ☀ Plan your walks for the coolest times of day and don't over exercise. Check pavements — if it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their paws.
- ☀ Contact a vet straight away if your dog shows signs of heatstroke (heavy panting, excessive drooling, wobbliness, vomiting and diarrhoea, collapsing).

Make walkies merry and bright with a cosy coat and hi-vis gear.

A winter wonderland can be dangerous for dogs — check for hidden hazards in the snow and never let them on frozen water. Wipe paws after walks so the wet and grit don't irritate your dog's skin.

Keep human treats well out of snoot reach, including chocolate and raisins which are dangerous for pooches.

Winter

Autumn

With Diwali and Guy Fawkes Night to celebrate, Autumn often means fireworks, which can be stressful for our dogs. To help your pooch cope:

- 🍂 Talk to your vet well in advance if you think they will struggle.
- 🍂 Plan walks for before it gets dark.
- 🍂 Create a safe, cosy space for them to hide away if they want to, and stay indoors with them when fireworks are likely.

It's back to school time, so why not teach your dog some new skills too or top up their training with a Dog School class?



Dog School's 1-2-1 training sessions

Does your dog find group training sessions stressful or distracting?

Or perhaps they only need help in one or two areas. While some pups might specialise in being the class cutie, other wise woofers better suit 1-2-1 support. Whether they're the next Stephen Paw-king or just a modest mutt, our Dog School will help your furball unleash their potential.

Some of the more common reasons owners contact us for 1-2-1 training include:

- **Recall** — getting your wandering wagger to come back when called.
- **Loose lead walking** — helping your dog walk nicely on the lead.
- **Jumping up** — teaching them to keep four paws on the floor.
- **Settle** — helping your playful pooch to settle down and relax on their own.
- **Confidence building** — helping you to recognise the early signs your fluffball may be uncomfortable or worried, and learning how to respond.



Our 60-minute sessions are tailored to your pooch's individual needs, strengthening your bond by helping you understand your best pal better. You'll also get access to our owner support hub for as long as you both need it. Now, let's get that dogree!

Find your local Dog School today at dogstrust.org.uk/dogschool

Fetch a winning feeling!

Play our Lucky Pups Lotto for just £1 a week

We've got hundreds of prizes and up to £1,000 to win every week in our Lucky Pups Lotto!

By playing you'll be supporting the rescue and rehoming of thousands of dogs like Lottie, providing essential veterinary care, training and rehabilitation. Sign up to our Lucky Pups Lotto today and start spreading the love to the dogs that need it most.

It's easy to start playing, just scan the QR code or call us on 0330 002 0897

16+ only. The Lottery is open only to residents of England, Wales and Scotland. Full T&Cs apply.

Our raffles are open October–February and March–June. Go to dogstrust.org.uk/raffle for a chance to win a woofing £7,500!



Play today to help dogs like me!

1st prize £1000

2nd prize £350

3rd prize £150

one of 100 £5 prizes

Lottie

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR BeGambleAware.org

Can you dig it?



Our furry friends need new and exciting activities to keep them engaged and learning new skills like problem solving and searching. The best part? You probably have all the bits you need around the house to create exciting games for your pooch, while having fun with the whole family.

Here's just one of our ideas to keep your pooch living, loving, and laughing, without breaking the bank.

How to make a dig box

You will need:

- a cardboard box
- some scrap paper
- your dog's favourite treats.



Method

1. Scrunch up the scrap paper and put it inside the box.
2. When the box is full of scrunched-up paper, sprinkle some of your dog's favourite treats inside.
3. Cover the top of the box and give it a shake to spread the treats around.
4. Put the box on the floor near your dog. Encourage them to dig through the box and find the tasty treats.

Make sure you supervise your dog, just in case they need help.

When giving your dog food-based treats, reduce their usual food so that they're not overfed, or split their regular meals into portions to use in enrichment activities in place of treats.

Find more enrichment activities, and yummy pooch-friendly recipes at dogstrust.org.uk/diy-dig-box





Catalogue

Are you ready to shop 'tail you drop? Zoom over to dogstrustgifts.com, where you'll find pawsome presents for friends, family and fur babies. Every purchase helps towards the care of thousands of stray and abandoned dogs.



Fleece Harbour Paw Slumber Bed

Treat your pooch to a new slumber spot. This cosy bed has a removable mattress and is made with recycled fibres and hypoallergenic, chemical free and flame-resistant Ecoflex. **£49.99** <



A4 Calendar 2024

The pawfect present for dog lovers features 12 handsome hounds and heart-warming stories from our rehoming centres around the UK. Plus plenty of room for notes and reminders. Open size: 297 x 240mm. **£5.99** <



Slim Diary 2024

Carry a pup in your pocket with our week-to-view diary. Open size: 170 x 170mm. **£3.99** <



Shark Dog Toy

Your pooch will have hours of fintastic fun with this squeaky sea friend. Made from recycled materials. Size: 200mm. **£10.99** >



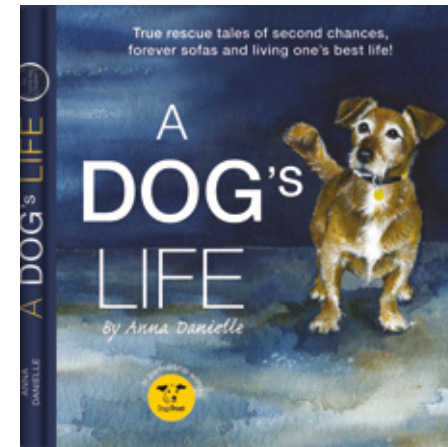
Playtime Dogs A5 notebook

Put pen to pupper in this handy notebook. 192 lined pages, printed in the UK. **£6.50** <

Wag

Walkies bag

With showerproof fabric, an adjustable strap and four pockets including a poo bag dispenser, walkies are in the bag with this essential accessory. Size: 210 x 240mm. **£9.99** >



Get your copy of **A Dog's Life**, a gorgeous gift book featuring true tales of Dogs Trust rescues and their happy furever afters, illustrated by artist Anna Danielle. Part of a range of cards and books from The Little Dog Laughed raising funds to support our work. Get your copy at thelittledog.co.uk <

Loves



Our friends at **Lily's Kitchen** have created a delicious new Christmas range for dogs, and will be making a donation from the sale of products in this range to help spread festive joy to dogs in need. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/lilyskitchen <

Every time you shop at home or abroad, you can donate to support the dogs in our care by signing up to a free Dogs Trust card that simply links to your existing debit card. Every £5 you donate through your card could provide training treats to help get our dogs ready for their new home. Sign up today at dogstrust.org.uk/currensea >

Want to help pooches and the planet?

By recycling or donating unwanted household items like jewellery, gadgets and ink cartridges you can reduce your carbon pawprint and support the dogs in our care. Find out more at dogstrust.org.uk/recycling



Our partners



Looking for simple ways to support the dogs in our care? Check out these hound-helping offers from our pawsome partners.

Keep your pooch safe with a **personalised Dogs Trust tag** — why not treat them to a new one today at dogstrust.org.uk/collarandtag >



Help your dog feel relaxed at the vet

Going to the vet can be stressful for our dogs (and for us), but it doesn't have to be. With just a bit of preparation and planning, you and your four-legged friend can feel a lot better about visiting the vet. Here's how.

Prepare your pooch

Visit the vet regularly, even when you don't need an appointment. Go for walkies past your vet and feed your dog some treats when you're passing. Pop inside and have some treats in the waiting room. Maybe ask if you can go into a consulting room if one is empty. Done over a couple of months, this will show your dog that the vet can be a nice place to visit. If you've got a puppy, speak to your vet to arrange socialisation visits.

Introduce your dog to being handled at home. Take it slowly and use plenty of treats. Visit our website for a step-by-step guide.



Plan your route to the vet and leave time for it to be a calm journey, however you're travelling.

Let your dog de-stress from the journey, stretch their legs, have a sniff around and go to the toilet before your appointment.

Be your dog's cheerleader

Try to stay calm. Your dog looks to you to guide them safely through life, so if you're tense, they'll be tense. However worried you might be, staying calm could help your dog to settle.

You know your dog best. Give your vet as much information as you can to help them treat your pooch. Let them know if your dog struggles with examinations, if there's somewhere they don't like to be touched, if you know they'll be more settled if you wait outside, or anything else that could help with a smooth vet visit. Become an expert in reading your dog's body language so you can support them — check out the guide on our website.



What to take with you to the vet

-  **Short fixed-length lead**
-  **Blanket** to help your dog settle
-  **Muzzle** (if your dog needs to wear one for a vet exam)
-  **Food or treats** to use as rewards and to keep your dog busy (unless you've been told not to feed them before your appointment)
-  **List of questions to ask the vet**
-  **Photos / videos of your dog's symptoms**, if they might be hard to show at the vet, like a limp
-  **Your dog's current medication**

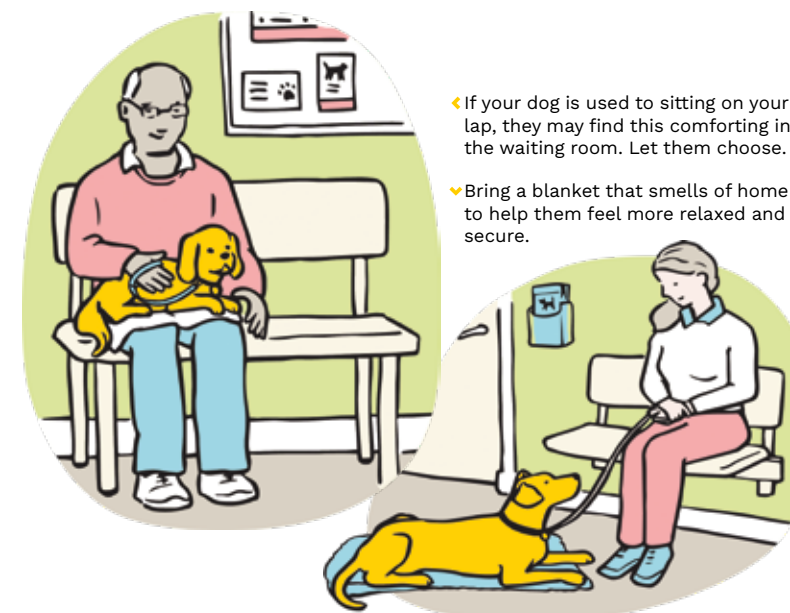
What to do in the waiting room

Give yourselves some space. Try and find a quiet spot to sit with less people and dogs around, if you can.

If it's crowded, or your dog usually finds the waiting room difficult, it might be better to wait outside. Tell the receptionist so they can let you know when it's your turn.

Keep your dog focussed on you. Encourage your dog to face towards you, away from things that might worry them. This will help them avoid eye contact with other dogs, which is often a cause of tension or frustration within the confined space of a waiting room.

Reassure your dog with attention and treats to keep them comfortable (unless you've been told not to feed them before their appointment).



- ◀ If your dog is used to sitting on your lap, they may find this comforting in the waiting room. Let them choose.
- ✔ Bring a blanket that smells of home to help them feel more relaxed and secure.

Find out how we're helping vet practices be more dog-friendly, at dogstrust.org.uk/professional-vet-clinics

Doglegangers

Readers, it's that time you've all been waiting for. The long-awaited return of Wag's most captivating section, which critics (us, the critics are us) have called a 'marvellous illusion', 'five-star phenomenon' and 'Houdini could never'.

So, make sure you're sat comfortably, clear your mind of any expectations, and prepare yourself to be mildly entertained. Introducing this year's uncanny-canines, our wonderful blink-and-you'll-miss-it Doglegangers.



Narah / Robert De Niro

You talkin' to me? We certainly are, Narah. This calm and loving 8-year-old Terrier Cross is no raging bull — that's why she's in a loving foster home, away from the hustle and bustle of our centres while she patiently waits to meet the parents. Could that be you?



Rosie / Dolly Parton

9-year-old sponsor dog Rosie may not have a coat of many colours or be friends with Kenny Rodgers, but when she gets to know you, she will always love you. Could you welcome Rosie into your 9 to 5?



How to draw a dog



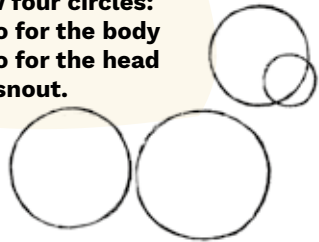
Our step-by-step tutorial will make doodling doggos a walk in the park. And you might just draw out your inner Pablo Pupcasso or Fridog Kahlo.

You'll need: paper, a pencil, a rubber, and colouring pens or pencils

Optional: a pawtrait model

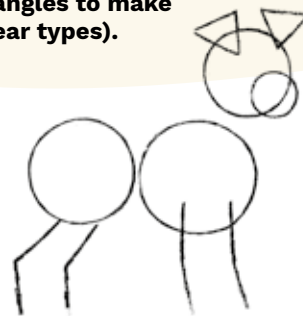
We'd love to see your woofs of art, send them to wag@dogstrust.org.uk or via social media to [@dogstrust](https://www.instagram.com/dogstrust)

1 Draw four circles: - two for the body - two for the head and snout.



2

Add:
- four lines for legs
- two upside down triangles for ears (try your triangles at different angles to make different ear types).



3

Connect your shapes and add a curved line for a tail.



A loose, neutral tail (not dropped low or held straight up) is often a sign that a dog is relaxed, so give your dog a nice, chilled tail.

4

Add feet and fur using wiggly lines along the tail and legs.



5

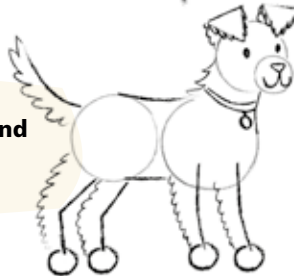
Add details to the face — a triangle nose, furry ears and oval eyes.



When a dog is calm and confident, their ears will be upright or slightly forwards (ears pinned back could be a sign a dog is nervous).

6

Give your dog a collar and tag to keep them safe.



7

Rub out any lines you don't need, add colour, and there's your handsome hound!

You could also draw their favourite toy, a tasty treat or their favourite activity.



We couldn't resist sharing some more of our favourite artistic dog names. Enjoy, love Team Wag x

**Barbara Hepwoof
Leonardog da Vinci
Jackson Pawlock
Vincent van Woof**

**Salvador Doggy
David Dogney
Carawaggio**

Little and large dog of the issue



Mini Martha

Rumour has it Martha used to work for the secret service, using her teeny size to sneak into criminal meetings unnoticed. When word got out that her silence could be bought with treats and pats, she ended up at our Newbury centre. We're delighted to inform you that we've now found Martha her forever home where she can enjoy all of the snacks and snoozes she likes without being accused of 'slacking' or 'compromising national security'.

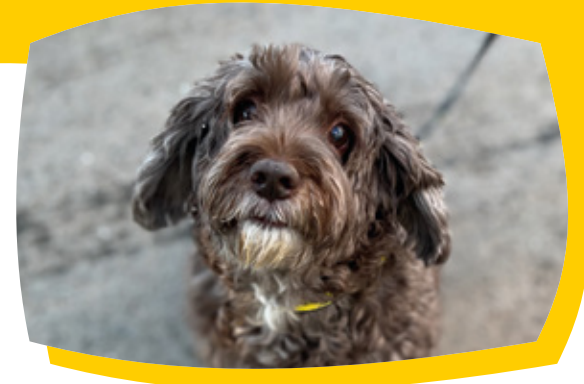
Diva Diesel

Diesel the Alaskan Malamute is a gentle giant with a hankerin' for pamperin'. This big softy can be found turning heads with his recent blow-out, or showing off his new strut to the pup-arazzi (...our Ilfracombe canine carers).



If you'd like to hear more from Diesel about his many puppy pamper treatments, you can sponsor him today for as little as £1 per week at [dogstrust.org.uk/sponsor](https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/sponsor)

A love that lasts forever



Tosca came into our care after her owner suddenly passed away.

We quickly found a temporary foster home to give her the love, care and attention that she needed during that difficult period, while keeping her surroundings as familiar as possible by placing her in a home.

Our dedicated volunteer fosterers played a crucial role in making Tosca comfortable while we searched for her new family. During her time with her foster carer, Tosca was given all the TLC needed to get back on her paws, and within a few weeks, we'd found her new home.

However, Tosca finding her new home wasn't the end of her story with us. Her owner had left us a legacy gift, a heartwarming gesture that reflected their deep care and consideration for the welfare of dogs in need of our help.

Their legacy gift will continue to impact the lives of dogs like Tosca for years to come, ensuring they receive the love, care, and support that they need.

Tosca's journey, and the legacy left behind by her owner, shows the amazing impact of legacy gifts.

By considering a gift in your will, you can leave a lasting legacy that provides hope, love, and happiness to the thousands of dogs in need of our help every year.

Together, we can create a brighter future for our dogs and honour the beautiful souls that are no longer with us.

To request your **free guide to gifts in wills**, please complete this form and send it to **FREEPOST DOGSTRUSTL** (no stamp required)

Title	Name
Address	
Postcode	335595

From time to time we would like to send you exciting updates about our work, products, services and how you can support us, including fundraising activities and research by post. If you'd rather not receive these mailings, please tick here

In order to communicate with you more effectively, better understand your preferences and ability to support our work, we may analyse your data. We do share your information within the Dogs Trust Group — currently Dogs Trust Worldwide, Dogs Trust Ireland and Dogs Trust Promotions. To read our full privacy policy visit [dogstrust.org.uk/privacy](https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/privacy).



**A dog is for life®
dogstrust.org.uk**



Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Registered charity numbers: 227523 & SC037843

Freedom for all



Many refuges and emergency housing services are unable to accept dogs, putting owners fleeing domestic abuse in the impossible position of having to leave their dog behind in a potentially dangerous situation.

Our Freedom Project offers a vital lifeline by providing temporary, and confidential, care for dogs, giving owners the peace of mind that their dog is safe and looked after while they get to safety.

One of our service users, Sarah*, was faced with the incredibly difficult decision of getting to safety or staying with her dog.

Sarah's story

"I was in an abusive relationship with my ex-partner. He took drugs a lot, so I was spending my time trying to make sure the property, him, my dog Alfie*, everybody survived. He used to physically abuse Alfie and would sometimes not walk him for weeks. I was worried about everyone and was just trying to do my best in the situation."

After making the difficult decision that she had to get to safety, Sarah was struggling to find a place that would also accept Alfie. "One organisation suggested I needed to rehome Alfie to be able to get somewhere safe, but that was never going to happen. I was willing to stay if it meant we could stay together. I couldn't lose my Alfie."

"If I hadn't have found out about Freedom Project, I would have felt so lost."

Sarah says, "I then reached out for help from another organisation, and this time they mentioned Freedom Project and that was how I found out about the fostering."

After chatting with our team, we were able to send someone out to collect Alfie to bring him to a safe temporary home with one of our foster carers and Sarah was able to get to safety.

"When Alfie was in foster care, I was sent regular updates and photos, and was always able to get hold of someone if I had any questions. I am so grateful that wonderful and kind people like his foster carers exist to give dogs like Alfie the comfort and safety they need while their owners get back on their feet."

If you, or someone you know, need our support, we're here for you. Email freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk or visit dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk

Support the Freedom Project by fostering a dog

We need more foster carers so we can help owners and dogs like Sarah and Alfie get to safety. Visit dogstrust.org.uk/freedom-project to find out how you can get involved.

* The names of both Sarah and Alfie have been changed for confidentiality.

Volunteer spotlight



Julia
Shrewsbury



Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our centres. From walking our canine friends, to making sure all the blankets are washed, folded and ready to be snuggled into, their generosity, dedication, and head scratches allow us to help the thousands of dogs that come into our care every year.

Here are just a few of our hero volunteers.



Jo
Newbury



Catherine
Newbury



Pat and Barbara
Kenilworth



Alison
Merseyside



Irene
Merseyside



Mo
Shrewsbury



Annie
Merseyside



Vol
Leeds



Kevin
Shrewsbury



Post Adoption Support



We're here for dogs from the moment they come into our care, for the rest of their lives. Our support continues even after we've found them a happy new home and waved them off with their new family. When you adopt a dog from us, you can feel reassured that we're on hand with expert advice whenever you need us.

No matter how long ago you took your pooch home, you can always contact us for behaviour and training advice. Our Post Adoption Support team are just a phone call away — we can help with most things over the phone, but in exceptional circumstances, we'll send someone out to visit. Last year alone, we helped over 35,000 adopters with advice about their dog.

Bear's story

When Alina and Tony met Bear at our Evesham centre it was love at first sight. Handsome Bear had never lived in a home before, having spent his life so far on a farm. Bear's unconventional start in life left him nervous and unpredictable around other animals.

The expert dog behaviour team at our Evesham centre worked with Bear to build his confidence and created a training plan that Alina and Tony could follow to support him with his issues. After several visits getting to know him and his training needs, they took this lucky lad back to his new home.

At first, Bear was very anxious around humans and other dogs, even hiding behind the sofa when his new owners spoke excitedly. As Bear was struggling to adjust, Alina and Tony contacted our post adoption support service. After a chat over the phone, our team organised a visit from one of our clinical animal behaviourists, Kris.

"The session was very helpful, but the real support only just started," recalls Tony. After the session, they had regular email support for several years as they continued their training journey.

"With Bear, there wasn't going to be a 'quick fix'; we had to take the journey to change together. We made a commitment to him, so giving him back was not an option," says Alina.

Thanks to the reassurance and practical tips from Kris, and ongoing phone support, Alina and Tony helped Bear's confidence grow. He's come on leaps and bounds; he now happily walks on the lead and is muzzle trained as a precaution.

"Bear is a completely different dog now, and we can't imagine life without him. The three of us did it together."

Bear's now getting more used to life around other dogs too: "We're still working around his anxiety around dogs, but he is a thousand times better. We're so grateful to have found Bear, with all his quirks and complexities, he's our perfect boy and we're so glad he found us."

If you've adopted from us and need some extra support, give us a call on 0300 303 3738 or pop us an email at postadoptionssupport@dogstrust.org.uk. Our expert staff will be happy to help.

Even if you didn't get your dog from us, you can access our Behaviour Support Line for free advice on behaviour or training. If you need a helping paw, give us a call on **03030 036 666**

Players of People's Postcode Lottery help raise funds for good causes, allowing us to help deserving paws

Since 2014, players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised an incredible £20 million to support our work. Their generous funding supports vital staff roles and services across Dogs Trust, including our Post Adoption Support service and research projects, which help us give the best possible advice and support to our adopters. A huge thank you to all the players for making a huge difference for dogs.



Supported by players of



Awarded funds from



Readers' dogs



For the chance to see your dog featured in the next issue, send your high-resolution pooch pictures to wag@dogstrust.org.uk



◀ Arie of Canterbury

Handsome Arie was rehomed by Linda at the energetic age of four months in 2021. Now, this character-filled good boy loves nothing more than snuggling up with his sister and playing with his toys.



Lexie ▶

You can't beat a good snooze in the sunshine. Meet Lexi, adopted by Brenda when she was just a puppy. They've now spent 10 glorious years together. There's nothing Lexi likes more in life than a good walk, followed by some treats and a nice sit in the garden. Sounds like Lexi's got life sorted!

▼ Zephyr of Salisbury

Through no fault of his own, Zephyr had a very difficult start in life. When his new owner Maddy took him home, she found she had a frightened little puppy who needed to learn to trust people again. Over time and with some love and patience, Zephyr learned to relax and let his personality shine through. Now he loves a good game of ball and hanging out with his doggie chums. Maddy says, "Every so often I get a nudge in the back of the knees; his signal that he wants a cuddle. The first two years were a lot of hard work, but so worth it to bring out the wonderful companion he's developed into."



Tammy of Manchester ▶

Prompted by her similarity to Danny, featured in the last edition of Wag, Marjorie and Julie sent in this lovely photo of their gorgeous girl Tammy. Originally from Ireland, she was rehomed at around one year old and now absolutely loves a good game of fetch (who doesn't?)



◀ Riley of Kenilworth

This very distinguished looking fellow is Riley. Rehomed by Gillian at the age of nine in 2014; he's now reached the grand old age of 17. Whilst he may have slowed down a little bit, he can still be found on the beaches of Cornwall living the life of, well, Riley!



Bella of Ilfracombe ◀

In a very short space of time, Bella has made a lasting pawprint in her new owner Ceri's heart. Ceri says, "She's brought so much joy to me and my family over the last few months and I couldn't imagine my life without her now. She is such a fun, soppy, water splashing, ball chasing bundle of joy!"

A dog's trust

Jake's journey

Rescued from an illegal puppy farm, Jake's early days were filled with unimaginable hardships. Kept in a dark and dingy shed in filthy conditions, the weariness in his eyes told a heartbreaking tale of abuse and mistreatment. As a result of never seeing daylight or being socialised, Jake's spirit was broken, and his trust in humanity shattered.

Sadly, he's not the only one. As you read this there will be another puppy out there, just like Jake, in need of urgent care and somewhere safe to call home.

Will you help dogs like Jake find the loving family they deserve?

Once in our care, Jake's journey to recovery wasn't an easy one. The trauma he'd been through left him wary of human interaction and petrified of most things.

With your help, our training and behaviour experts were able to give Jake the love, care and support he needed to overcome his anxieties, allowing him to rediscover the joy and warmth that a loving human can bring.

Your gift today could help dogs like Jake recover from traumatic experiences and build their confidence.

With your kind donation, you'll be providing a lifeline for innocent dogs like Jake, offering them a chance to heal, grow, and, when they're ready, find their forever homes. Together, we can continue to create a world where no dog is left behind.

To donate, visit dogstrust.org.uk/feartotrust. Together, we can let dogs like Jake know that love triumphs over fear and that a brighter tomorrow awaits.



Your gift helps us change the lives of more dogs like Jake.

£10 could buy a puppy farm victim the first toy or treats they've ever had.

£25 could help pay for medication needed to help bring a poorly pup back to health.

£50 could go towards specialist behaviour training to help pups gain confidence.

£100 could help fund our dog ambulances to rescue more puppies like Jake.

Yes, I want to bring trust back to fearful dogs like Jake.

To send a much-appreciated gift, the easiest way is online at dogstrust.org.uk/feartotrust, or by calling us on 020 7837 0006.

Alternatively, please complete the form below and return it in the Freepost envelope provided, or address an envelope to **Freepost DOGFORLIFE**

For supporters living outside of the UK, please return the form below to Dogs Trust, Clarissa Baldwin House, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ, England.

Your details: Source: 900079

Title: _____

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Supporter No. (if known) _____

I'd like to give a gift of:

- £10 — to buy a puppy farm victim like Jake the first toy or treats they've ever had.**
- £25 — to help pay for a course of routine medication needed to help bring a poorly pup back to health.**
- £50 — to go towards specialist behaviour training that pups need to help them grow in confidence after experiencing such cruelty at a young age.**
- £100 — to help keep our dog ambulances running to ensure more puppies like Jake can be rescued from illegal puppy farms.**
- Other £** _____

I would like to donate by:

Cheque/postal order (please make payable to Dogs Trust and write your supporter number on the back. This can be found on your letter.)

Debit/credit card CAF card

Card no:

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Valid from: □□ / □□

Expiry date: □□ / □□

Issue no (Switch/Maestro only): □□

Cardholder's name (as printed on the card): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Donations will go to Dogs Trust to be used towards the care of dogs wherever the need is greatest.



giftaid it

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate to Dogs Trust

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Dogs Trust from the tax you pay for the current tax year. In order for us to Gift Aid your donations please ensure you tick and date the box below.

Tick here

Date: _____

I wish to Gift Aid this donation and any donation I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Dogs Trust.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. **Please note your address is required to identify you as a current taxpayer.**

Please notify Dogs Trust if you:

1. Want to cancel this declaration.
2. Change your name or home address.
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your Income and/or Capital Gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

From time to time we would like to send you updates about our work, products, services and how you can support us, including fundraising activities and research by post. If you're also happy to hear from us by email and/or phone, please fill in your details:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I'd prefer not to receive a thank you letter.

You can opt out of communications or change your preferences at any time by phoning **020 7837 0006** or visiting dogstrust.org.uk/keepintouch

In order to communicate with you more effectively, and better understand your preferences and ability to support our work, we may analyse your data. We do share your information within the Dogs Trust Group; currently Dogs Trust Worldwide, Dogs Trust Ireland and Dogs Trust Promotions. To read our full privacy policy visit dogstrust.org.uk/privacy