



# **DOG AID SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

2020 Annual Report

## About Us

Established in 1956, the Dog Aid Society of Scotland is an independent dog re-homing charity based in Edinburgh. We provide invaluable services to dog owners all over Scotland through various schemes.

At the Dog Aid Society, we provide a personal and unique re-homing service.

We re-home dogs of all breeds, sizes and ages and as we do not have kennels, we work on a home to home basis matching dogs to suitable homes. Once in their new homes the Society vaccinates, micro-chips and neuters all our dogs to promote responsible dog ownership. We ensure our new owners and dogs have the support they need. Our dedicated Dog Welfare Officer provides support during and after the re-homing process.

The Dog Aid Society is also unique in that when we re-home dogs with pre-existing conditions or dogs of 8 years or older, we cover all non-routine veterinary bills for the remainder of the dog's life. This improves the chances of older dogs being re-homed by giving new owners the financial support they may need to create a loving home for their new companion.

DASS is an independent charity, we receive no government funding. All of our funds come from legacies, donations and fundraising events.

### Office Bearers:

**Honorary President:** Mr Jay Crawford

**Chairperson:** Mrs Margery Bruce

**Trustees:** Mr Iain Butt

Ms Jane Spurgeon

Miss Morven Kerr

Ms Joyce Hilson (Resigned September 2020)

### Staff

**Administrator:** Clare Dymond

**Co-ordinator:** Kitty Langley

**Welfare Officer:** Helen Jones

**Treasurer:** Walter Stone / Julia Taylor

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## ***Our Objectives***

- To find new homes for dogs whose present owners are unable or unwilling to continue ownership.
- To provide veterinary help for those in need.
- To help reduce the number of unwanted dogs by providing Neutering Vouchers.
- To encourage and give information on responsible dog ownership.
- To advance dog welfare.

## ***Chairperson's Report***

Who could have forecast that our past year in business could have been so dramatic, so very different and difficult to manage, but we made it thanks to our excellent staff and Trustees who rose to the challenge.

Once the Covid restrictions came into force and with the agreement of our staff, the decision was made that the office would close and staff would work from home which they have managed extremely well. Lately one of the staff has been in the office each day to remain up to date with mail - incoming and outgoing – and with telephone enquiries etc.

Sadly our re-homing programme had to be curtailed but enquiries regarding dog behavioural matters etc were dealt with on the telephone by our Welfare Officer offering advice.

The Neutering Scheme, Veterinary Aid Scheme and Food and Veterinary Treatment Fund still went ahead dealing with numerous enquiries for help. It's amazing what can be dealt with over the phone and via emails.

Despite the virus being full-on for most of our year, we went ahead with an interesting programme of advertising in newspapers throughout the length and breadth of Scotland - some being full page ads which have quite an impact - and our exciting up to the minute advert for a whole year on the back of an Edinburgh bus. Talk about eye-catching! It's only on one bus but it changes routes and so will be on view all year through in different areas of the city.

Our intrepid staff and some of our Trustees again had the Sponsored Walk - all walking independently of one another as per regulations - clocking up a fair number of miles and raising £759.

We participated in the 'Local Hero awards' in Edinburgh which drew a lot of interest in the city and we sponsored one of the categories.

We propose to promote our own Bravery Award *Scotland's K9 Bravery Award* in 2021 if restrictions allow.

Unfortunately most of the wonderful Shows which we normally attend and which are highlights in our year were cancelled as was our Christmas Fete but we hope to have these returning to our calendar in 2021 - Covid restrictions permitting.

In a year of changes, we said goodbye to a long-standing member of staff and welcomed a new face as Treasurer of DASS. I would like to record in this Annual Report sincere thanks to Walter from all involved in the Dog Aid Society of Scotland throughout Walter's years of service. Also many thanks to Jay Crawford for another year of service, we hope to meet again soon.

Thanks to everyone at DASS and our supporters for helping us to continue our purpose to help Scotland's dogs.

- *Margery Bruce*



## **DASS NEWS**

### ***22 years with DASS***

We were all very disappointed when Walter Stone announced he was stepping down as Treasurer of the Dog Aid Society in 2020 after 22 years in the job.

DASS was very fortunate when Walter became Treasurer in 1998 after a career in banking. Over the years he became a highly trusted and valued member of the team with his dedication to the job and his meticulous approach to working out all the figures as required. He was also an expert at being able to compile a letter or say some words which were just right for the situation, often aided by his wry sense of humour. We wish him well in his second retirement and hope he will not be a stranger to DASS.

Thank you, Walter.



## Lockdown

DASS closed its office on 17 March 2020 and staff learned how to work from home for the first time. The DASS office dogs were confused but delighted to spend every day at home, although the extra cuddles and new sniffs from visitors were missed. Re-homing was put on hold but our Neutering and Veterinary Aid Schemes continued. Staff sourced PPE including screen barriers as per guidelines and our call for home-made masks was generously answered. Thank you to our followers on Facebook for their generosity!

*Read throughout this report how dogs have helped their owners through lockdown plus guidance on separation anxiety.*

### Local Hero Awards

The Society was one of several sponsors that took part in the Edinburgh Evening News Local Hero Awards which was held virtually on Friday 9th October, 2020. DASS sponsored the Bravery Award which Cameron Clough won for helping to rescue someone from a house fire.

Staff member Clare took over from host Arlene

Stuart (of Forth One fame) to introduce the Bravery Award

and winner. DASS was very proud to be part of such a fantastic event that encourages kindness and helping others, and we are delighted about our Clare's star appearance!



### DASS Bus

For the first time ever, the Society has taken over the back of a Lothian Bus!

The DASS bus made its

maiden voyage

in September

2020 and will

continue to

journey through

the Edinburgh

city centre and

Lothians until

August 2021. If

you spot our bus

around, please safely take a

photo if you can and send it to

enquiries@dogaidociety.com

or tag or message us on Facebook!



### Sponsored Walk Challenge

The DASS Sponsored Walk was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown. However, staff still managed to finish their goal of walking 550 miles in March, the equivalent distance from the DASS office to John O'Groats and back. This was challenging at a time when you were only allowed one outdoor exercise a day. We are sure fellow dog owners and many others found this limitation difficult. *You can read more about this fundraiser in the Events section.*

## Our Schemes

The Society helps dogs by supporting owners going through financially hard times. Our support often allows the owner to keep their dog through these schemes or or sometimes with training support from our Welfare Officer.

### ***Food and Veterinary Treatment Fund***

In some cases the Society may be asked to re-home a dog that has a medical condition such as diabetes, skin allergies or arthritis. The Society offers new DASS dog owners financial assistance with veterinary bills related to health conditions when they take on one of our dogs with an existing medical condition. This is made possible by the Society's Food and Veterinary Treatment Fund (Vet Fund) which supports dogs for the remainder of their lives in their new homes. This service helps to relieve any financial worry prospective new owners may have when taking a dog with an existing condition.

At present the Society is assisting a total of 39 dogs re-homed with pre-existing conditions through the Vet Fund and older dogs through our Old Dog Scheme. There are currently 18 dogs with pre-existing conditions covered by our Vet Fund with such conditions as epilepsy, Cushing's disease, incontinence, skin conditions, arthritis and pancreatitis.

*Chico the Jack Russell Cross was 2 years old when he was re-homed by the Society in 2014. He has since won the hearts of all the family in his new home. Chico has pancreatitis and the Society help with the cost of his medication and half of the prescribed food Chico requires due to his condition. Chico is in good health although he is naturally slowing down a little as he gets older but he still loves his ball box; Chico goes crazy for a ball toy! He is great with children but also loves making dog friends. His family love fun little Chico to bits.*



Chico

## *Old Dog Scheme*

The Food and Veterinary Treatment Fund also covers the Society's Old Dog Scheme. When the Society re-homes a dog that is 8 years old or older, all their non-routine veterinary bills for life will be covered by the Society. This excludes routine treatments such as vaccinations and worming or flea treatment. Older dogs can be easier to handle as they are house-trained, generally less energetic and can have big personalities. Older dogs can be very loveable and great companions in the right home. This scheme ensures they have a fair chance of finding loving new owners.

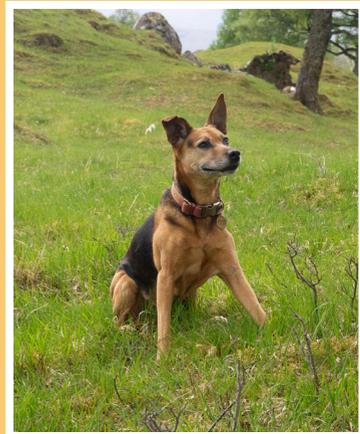
It is common for the Society to receive many old dogs for re-homing in a normal year and we assisted 8 out of a possible 17 old dogs on our roster who required care in 2020.

*Mia the 8 year old Terrier Cross was re-homed by the Society in 2017 to a couple who had been looking to welcome an older rescue into their lives. Mia is an extremely loving and giving dog. Mia rarely barks unless the smoke alarm goes off! She has other quirks, for example, Mia refuses to go out if she hears the Jay birds outside, but fortunately she has got used to the tame cock pheasant in the garden. Mia looks exactly like a greyhound / whippet when she runs like the wind and has a lot of whippet temperament - loves to lie down, hates going out in bad weather but loves to run in short bursts. Mia's owners appreciate her Terrier traits too, having had a Jack Russell previously. Mia has found the perfect home. DASS is also there to support her owners if Mia ever needs extra medical care as she was re-homed at 8 years old.*



Above: Mia running

Right: Mia [and front cover]



## Neutering Scheme

The Society understands the importance of having dogs neutered to prevent unwanted litters and any health difficulties. For over 25 years the Society has provided a Neutering Scheme to financially assist dog owners on benefits or a low income to get this procedure. Neutering has many health benefits and can help to prevent conditions such as testicular cancer, mammary tumours and pyometra. It can also have behavioural benefit by calming a dog's temperament.

In 2020 the Society offered a £75 voucher for neutering male dogs and a £100 voucher for female spaying, as typically this procedure is more expensive.

The value of the vouchers was increased at the beginning of the year due to the noted rise in veterinary costs.

The aim of the voucher scheme is to help dog owners on a low income who are unable to afford the full cost of having their dog neutered. The voucher should be accepted at all local vets except the PDSA, but we would advise owners to check this beforehand.

The Neutering Scheme is extremely popular - we assisted with the neutering of 167 dogs in Scotland during 2020 and that includes several months when veterinary practices did not perform this procedure.

*Rosie the Chihuahua was re-homed in late 2019 by the Society when she was only 14 weeks old. Little Rosie has grown into a cheeky but very affectionate companion in her new home. In 2020 the Society covered the cost of Rosie's spay. DASS does this for all dogs it re-homes where the dog has not been done yet. We request this of all our dog owners, as long as it is not against health advice.*



You can apply to the Neutering or Veterinary Aid Schemes at [dogaidssociety.com](http://dogaidssociety.com) or speak to our team and request an application form by calling 0131 668 3633.

## ***Dog Fouling Scheme***

The Society firmly believes a big part of being a responsible dog owner is picking up your dog's waste. In order to encourage this, the Society supplies dog waste disposal bags which are available from our office at 60 Blackford Avenue in Edinburgh. These are great quality, strong, biodegradable bags. We do appreciate a small donation for them. All donations are used to fund the purchase of the bags. We have more than usual in the office due to our closure in 2020 so please help us to get through them!

**Get your poo bags here!  
Drop into the DASS office for  
our top quality poo bags -  
yours for a donation!**



## ***Veterinary Aid Scheme***

The Veterinary Aid Scheme provides financial assistance to dog owners on benefits or a low income to help towards any unexpected veterinary bills.

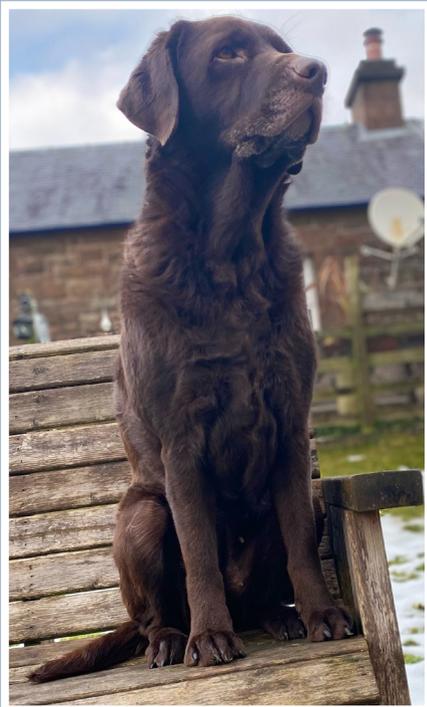
Owners can apply for help by calling to request a form or printing one from our website. Each case is discussed by our Board of Trustees after all the necessary information has been received. The Scheme helps to ensure dogs from less financially stable homes get veterinary treatment they would otherwise struggle to save for or receive at all.

During 2020 the Society assisted 66 dogs who were in desperate need of vet care and who may not have received it without our help. These included a Chihuahua Cross with a broken leg, a Rottweiler with removal surgery of a malignant melanoma, a Border Collie needing TTA surgery for a ruptured cruciate, a Sprocker Spaniel with heart failure, a young Pug requiring eye surgery and a Bichon Frise with a spinal cord injury. The number of dogs the Society helped in 2020 has risen from the year before. We expect a further increase in 2021 as the effects of the pandemic are fully realised.

**Buster** the Staffie Cross was 10 months old when he suddenly fell ill after swallowing a foreign object. This was suspected to be a rogue rubber ball he found in the garden. His owners faced a steep vet bill after many tests and surgery to remove the object.

Luckily Buster made a full recovery and now wears a muzzle in the garden, just in case. True to his breed, he is a very loving dog but also enjoys destroying toys, which his owners are very careful about now!

Buster has given his family a lot of entertainment and love over lockdown and they cannot imagine life without him.



**Wispa** the 6-year-old Chocolate Labrador is one of the dogs the Society helps towards her monthly medication. Wispa suffers from skin conditions and needs Apoquel on a regular basis to keep her irritable skin and infections under control. Her owner says, "Having the help from Dog Aid Society has meant I can continue to give [Wispa] the best quality of life on the expensive medication which I wouldn't have been able to do over this difficult time." Wispa has been a real source of joy during lockdown for her owner and the children, especially when schools were closed.

## ***Dog Re-homing Procedure***

Making the decision to re-home a dog can be an extremely difficult one, but the Society offers a re-homing service that prioritises the dog's needs.

This is how the Dog Aid Society re-homes all dogs...

- The owner is asked to complete a questionnaire about the dog's personality, their current circumstances and needs.
- Once the Society receives the forms, the Welfare Officer will visit the dog in its home to conduct an assessment and gain more information about the dog. From this, the Welfare Officer can decide what type of home would suit the dog best.
- The dog's information is added to our website where potential new owners can view and apply for the dog.
- When a suitable application comes in, the Welfare Officer carries out a home visit to meet the applicants and assess their suitability.
- The Welfare Officer will collect the dog and its belongings from its current home and after a full health check at our vet it will be taken to its new home.
- After around two weeks of a settling-in period, the Welfare Officer will visit the dog in its new home to make sure it is comfortable, happy and healthy and that the prospective new owner is confident that the dog will fit in with the family. Only at this point will the dog be signed over to the new owner.
- While protecting the new owner's identity, the Society can let the previous owners know how re-homed dogs are getting on and always encourages updates and photographs from the new owners.



## ***The Benefits of Re-homing a Dog Through the Society***

If you are in the position to welcome a new addition into your family, there are many reasons why you should adopt a dog from the Society:

- We provide a caring and personal service for each and every dog.
- We conduct home checks and follow up visits to make sure we match the right dog to your family.
- We re-home all breeds of dog, including more unusual breeds and crosses.
- Our service is available all over Scotland and our Welfare Officer covers the whole of the country to find a suitable home.
- We pay for our dogs to be neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. If they are over 8 years old or have a pre-existing condition the Society will support you with the vet bills.
- As we have asked for the dog's history there should be no nasty surprises, and if it doesn't work out during the settling-in period we will collect the dog.
- We also offer training advice and support to help your new friend settle in.
- All we ask for is a nominal re-homing fee, irrespective of breed.

Contact us if you would like to talk more about  
re-homing your dog or re-homing a DASS dog  
on 0131 668 3633  
or at [welfare@dogaidssociety.com](mailto:welfare@dogaidssociety.com).



## Re-homed by DASS

*Morag the Fell Terrier was 8 years old when DASS re-homed her in February. Morag suffers from epilepsy so care for her condition is covered by our Vet Fund, as well as further support due to her being an older dog. DASS were able to find Morag a home where they understood her condition as there had been epilepsy in the family before.*

*Morag is a classic Terrier with her love for destroying toys and chasing squirrels. She relishes time spent at the beach and is very friendly towards people, always giving a warm welcome to family visitors.*



Morag was our last re-homing success before lockdown began on 23rd March. A week before lockdown, DASS closed its office and confirmed with owners of any dogs on our re-homing register that they were happy to keep their dog for now, with no issues in regard to dog welfare. The re-homing service did not return in 2020.

### Instead, we invite you to read some updates on dogs previously re-homed by DASS:

*Toddy the Yorkshire Terrier was 10 months old in 2016 when he was re-homed after he suffered a broken leg and his owner could not afford the treatment required. He was taken care of by the Society and soon settled into a happy new home in the countryside.*



Above: Toddy in a hot spot  
Right: Toddy in water

*Toddy loves other dogs and people and is not always aware of his breed and size. Toddy follows and plays with his best friend a Springer Spaniel / Lab Cross who taught him the fun*



*of leaping into any body of water for a stick – an unusual trait for Yorkies.*

*Toddy has been a mentor to his room-mate Smidge, another Yorkie rescue, showing him how to be a dog that loves life – although he has never been able to change Smidge’s mind about swimming. After a long walk, Toddy is very happy to curl up in front of the fire. Toddy has been great company over lockdown and continues to entertain his owner and is always available for hugs.*



Toddy and Smidge



Maisie

***Maisie** the 6 month old Spaniel was re-homed by the Society in 2009. She settled in with the other dogs in the home immediately and she was great friends with their Springer, Hector. Whilst Maisie had some behavioural issues, these were worked on and her recall is quite good now. Maisie’s other little quirks are just part of her character!*

*She has had a great time with long walks, playing and a little bit of training here and there, although she thinks she only needs to sit and lie down to get a treat and that is sufficient. Maisie loves her bed and she likes to relax in the sunshine.*

*As Maisie approaches the ripe age of 12, she now leads a life more befitting an older lady - and she is very happy about that!*



*Winnie the tri-coloured Border Collie came to DASS as a puppy of 14 weeks in 2014. She spent some time being looked after at the kennels but in the end we were able to find her a great home.*

*There, Winnie has grown into an impressive agility dog and she*

*also takes part in Flyball and more recently, Hoopers. Winnie is still the cute, friendly, darling girl staff remember when she came in for re-homing. Her owner feels very lucky to have her around. Winnie has always been good at cuddles which has helped over lockdown and particularly when her owner suffered a tough loss soon after she was re-homed.*

*Winnie started agility and flyball when she was about a year old as she naturally has a lot of excess energy. These are great activities for dogs like Winnie, and it is very rewarding for her owner.*

*Lockdown was difficult as Winnie could not attend training. Winnie can be an odd girl, but she is extremely loyal. She has been very good while her owner has been at home constantly. Her owner's love for Winnie keeps on growing.*



Top and Right: Winnie taking part in agility training.  
Above: Winnie at Flyball.

*Ris was received by DASS in 2011 as a 10-week-old German Shepherd. She was taken to kennels where she would be cared for around the clock. Her owner spotted Ris and it was love at first sight. Ris turns 10 this year and loves life with her family, including two canine house-mates.*



*In 2014, Chance arrived as a puppy and was also taken to kennels. He was part of a litter of Rottweiler and Doberman Crosses and their owner could not handle them. Chance was one of the last to be re-homed which meant his new owner had more time to grow fond of him and the attachment proved too strong to say goodbye. Chance's owner describes him as 'the most loyal dog we've ever had'. He was a very large puppy but very calm for his age. Chance and Ris get on well with their Lurcher house-mate and have been a great distraction for their owners during lockdown; lots of hours letting*

*the dogs gallop around the fields and lots of walks in the countryside helped fill the extra time and lifted spirits.*



Top: Ris  
Above: Chance getting festive  
Right: Chance



*Jet came to DASS for re-homing in 2006 when he was about 18 months old. An owner was found and a meeting with their current dog Rags on neutral territory was arranged. Jet ran loops around everyone and was a very fun dog for the rest of his life. Jet loved everything and everyone and was always cheerful – always ‘smiling’. Although he had a naughty streak of stealing food – a Christmas cake and a family-sized curry being his most memorable achievements. But he loved a cuddle and could not have been gentler, with his tail always wagging. Jet loved the beach and anywhere there was water – he ended up passing on his love of water to the owner’s next DASS dog, Boo.*

*Boo was re-homed in 2011 as a 6-week-old Border Collie. He was meant to be under foster care, but this did not last long as his owners fell in love with his sweet nature and handsome looks. Initially ignored by their eldest dog Rags, Boo turned to Jet as a pillow to sleep on from this young stage and a strong bond was formed. Boo continued to sleep on or by Jet whenever he*



*needed security. Boo is the friendliest dog and loves to meet people. He is a keen gardener as he loves to dig holes in the flower beds! He loves to lie down and nibble at a toy. Boo helped his owners through the grief of losing Rags. He is very happy to get attention but always calm and laid back so has a rather relaxing presence. Both Jet and Boo have been involved in the agility world, with Boo having more success. He loves it so much he barks all the way around the course. Jet sadly passed away in 2019 due to an aggressive cancer and Boo grieved for a while but still enjoys the good life.*



Above: Jet  
Right: Boo at  
agility

***Bella** the Border Collie was re-homed in October 2010 to the open arms of our very own Welfare Officer! She was too cute and loving to give to anyone else. Bella came home to live with two other dogs, another Border Collie and a German Shepherd. Rogan the GSD would become her best friend and protector. Fellow staff have often enjoyed seeing her in the office. Bella has always been a special girl and makes everyone laugh at her antics as she is worried about odd things. She has always been scared of noises, especially people sneezing; if anyone sneezed in the office they would say 'Sorry Bella' as Bella would run and hide at the sound. But she is a very friendly dog and loves to get up on the sofa to snuggle and lick you to death.*



*Bella has never got over her fear of noises but loves all people as they just might have a treat in their pocket - Bella is ruled by her appetite! She now lives with another GSD called Kobi who she adores and looks after even if that means she keeps all the toys and he gets to watch her play with them. Bella has gone on to help a lot of dogs that are worried about other dogs as she has been a 'stooge' dog in training sessions, helping them realise that not all dogs are scary. Bella enjoys doing this as she gets lots of treats.*

*Last year during lockdown Bella tore her cruciate and had to have TPLO surgery on her leg but she coped really well with the surgery and long recovery and is back to being herself, causing mayhem!*



Top Right and Left: Bella. Above: Bella (far left) with her current best pals Kobi and Tarn.

## *In Memoriam - Remembering DASS Dogs*

Below is a small selection of DASS dogs we sadly lost in 2020. We are proud to give all our dogs a second chance in life and we are indebted to their owners who give them such loving and happy homes.

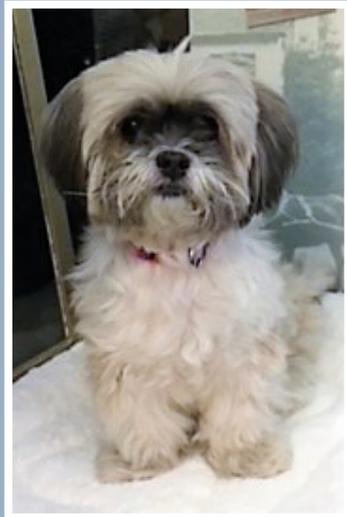
*Chico the Papillon was re-homed by the Society 15 years ago and passed away at the grand age of almost 17 years old on Boxing Day, 2020.*



*This image (left) shows Chico lying on his chair which no one else was allowed to sit on. Chico's other station was on the table looking out the window and then he would move to his owners' bed when it was time to sleep! Chico had a very loving presence, and his owners miss him greatly.*

*Milly the 9-year-old Shih Tzu came to the Society for re-homing in 2019 as she was having trouble living with children. DASS found her a quiet new home where she enjoyed being spoilt and being the centre of attention. She had a lovely peaceful time until she passed in late 2020.*

*Her DASS owners loved her dearly and still really miss their Milly but are grateful for the short time they had together. The Society is indebted to our new owners who give their whole hearts to their companions even when their time is sadly cut short.*



**Charli** was 8 years old when he was re-homed by the Society in 2015. He was a little Bichon Frise/Shih Tzu Cross and the children in his former home were scared of him, but DASS managed to find a new loving home for Charli. Sadly he suddenly passed away in September 2020. He was 13 years old. His family were heartbroken but are grateful for their time with Charli as he had such a big personality and gave them a lot of joy.

**Poppy** was 3-and-a-half-years old in 2008 when she was re-homed by DASS. Sadly she passed in the summer of 2020 but she happily lived to 15-and-a-half years old. Poppy was a ball of energy and her favourite place to run around was at Gullane beach where she knew the car route and exactly when to start getting excited. A dog for all the family, Poppy brought much joy to children and showed her excitement to play every time grandchildren came to visit. She will forever be remembered fondly by her family.



**Chizzy** the Chihuahua was re-homed at 12 years old in 2017. Her new owner was able to care for the older lady. Chizzy was a rather worried and shy girl; she was unsure about playing with toys so creative ideas for new entertainment were required – Chizzy loved to get a ride on a friend's wheelchair every day and enjoyed her owner's singing as Chizzy comfortably whizzed through the halls. Chizzy loved to potter around the garden but sadly later in life her heart was not up to much so her owner made a bed in her shopping trolley to take Chizzy up to the local park where she could explore a little out there without exerting herself. Chizzy was well known and liked around the park as she was a very cheerful girl. Her owner misses her greatly but she was such delightful company, they are very grateful for the happy times.





The Society will find a safe and loving new home for dogs whose owners are faced with the worry that they have no-one who would be able or willing to take in their dog(s) should anything happen to them. We understand some owners may fear their dog will outlive them but if this happens and you are signed up to our dog bequeath service, Forever After, the Society will find your dog a new forever home.

This service is available to all dog owners in Scotland and is completely free. The owner will be asked to complete a form which contains all of their contact details and information about their dog's temperament, personality and any medical needs. If the worst happens, the Society will be contacted and our Welfare Officer will collect the dog and they will be placed in emergency kennel care. We will use the information provided on the completed forms to determine what type of home would be best suited for the dog. Once a home is found, our Welfare Officer will conduct the same thorough home checks carried out when re-homing all our dogs. If any veterinary treatment is required the Society will ensure this is carried out under its Vet Fund and if it is over 8 years old, it will be covered by the Society's Old Dog Scheme.

By offering this service we hope to provide dog owners with peace of mind that their much-loved companions will always be cared for in a loving home.

The Society is here for those who would take comfort in signing up to this service.

If you would like to find out more or request the forms to register your dog for Forever After please contact the Society's office on 0131 668 3633 or by emailing [enquiries@dogaidssociety.com](mailto:enquiries@dogaidssociety.com). You can also read about it on our website at [www.dogaidssociety.com](http://www.dogaidssociety.com).

## **Events**

It was difficult to cover 550 miles while lockdown restrictions came into place, but the staff completed the Sponsored Walking Challenge in March remotely and following government guidelines. Thanks to you, we managed to fundraise £759 which was put towards the purchase of a defibrillator machine and outdoor cabinet to be placed outside the DASS office in Blackford Avenue, for the local community. The office is located at a very busy junction so we hope the machine will help someone if it is ever needed.

Sadly all other events the Society was due to attend in 2020 were cancelled because of the pandemic. We are looking forward to attending our favourites and more in the future again.

It is the Society's 65th anniversary in 2021 and we hope to celebrate any way we can. To mark this special milestone, we are launching Scotland's K9 Bravery Award on 15 March 2021. Nominations will be taken for any dogs that have acted courageously or in a way that helped or saved someone or another animal, until the closing date of 1 October 2021. The winner of Scotland's K9 Bravery Award will be announced on 25 October 2021. The winner will receive a medal and the DASS team will organise a publicised ceremony (following government Covid guidelines). Please go to the DASS website for news and more information on how you can enter your nomination.

You can keep up to date with all events through our Facebook page or sign up to the DASS online newsletter on our website.

## ***2020 Winter Fundraising***

The Society's annual Winter Fete was cancelled in December 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, we launched our Winter Brochure and Raffle in October. We were unsure of the response as it had been a tumultuous year but amazingly our supporters almost outperformed our previous Winter fundraising record!

Thank you so much to everyone who ordered something from the brochure or took part in our first Fireplace Quiz. We managed to raise an impressive £2,860 from these combined efforts.

Thank you for choosing to support our charity, it means a great deal at times like these. We are uncertain what will be appropriate in Winter 2021 but we look forward to seeing some familiar faces soon.

## ***2020 Christmas Raffle***

The Christmas raffle is organised to raise funds for the Food and Veterinary Treatment Fund. This is a very worthwhile cause as through this fund we are able to re-home dogs who may not have been taken on by a new family without the support provided. In 2020, our Christmas Raffle managed to raise £955!

That is an impressive amount given the circumstances. This great success is due to all our loyal supporters who bought tickets. The 2020 Raffle was drawn on 4th December and we were able to offer some wonderful prizes including hampers and vouchers. Congratulations to our winners!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the raffle, it will really benefit dogs covered by our Food and Vet Fund.



## ***Winter Brochure***

The Society's Winter Brochure is available during the festive period with a great selection of gifts for dogs and for friends and family. It also features a selection of Dog Aid Society branded Christmas cards. We try to provide a variety of styles and some will be on sale, so get your Christmas bargains here!

The DASS shop still provides collars, leads, toys and accessories. We take card payments, so do not hesitate to call to pay for a brochure order over the phone or come visit our shop in person, if you can.

Brochures will be available from October and are always sent to our members and supporters. To place an order or request a brochure please call the office on 0131 668 3633.

Alternatively, a digital version will be posted on our website at [www.dogaidssociety.com](http://www.dogaidssociety.com).

All proceeds support the dogs that come to us for re-homing and veterinary care.



*Charity Shop Christmas Card*

## Separation Anxiety

As we start to leave the home more, there is a growing number of dog owners finding their dogs are experiencing some form of separation anxiety. Dogs are naturally very social and enjoy being around people, but it is important to teach them from a young age that being alone is part of their routine and will continue to be throughout their lives. Here are some tips that could help:

- If you are suspicious of your dog's behaviour while you are out, you can place cameras where they tend to sit or lie down and check to see if they show signs of anxiety (barking, howling, whining, scratching, running around, sighing frequently, trembling).
- Do not tell your dog off when you arrive home and see they have been destructive – they will be very worried and will not associate the telling-off with scratching the door, for example.
- Get a vet consult to rule out any health issues.
- Ensure your dog gets enough mental stimulation and physical exercise before leaving them.
- Little tricks such as leaving the radio or TV on can help them feel less alone. Toys with hidden treats can also help distract them for a time.
- Ensure your dog does not rely on your constant attention when you are with them.
- Take it slowly: leave your dog in another room for a few minutes and slowly increase the time to an hour and then a couple of hours. Then try going out in the garden without them, then leaving the house completely. At each step you should follow the dog's needs to see if they are ready to move on.
- If you feel you are not seeing improvements after several months or need more support then seek the help of a professional behaviourist. Your vet should be able to recommend one, or you can carry out a personal search in your local area.

If you have any further questions, please call the Society on 0131 668 3633 or 07940 780 589 for advice and recommendations on steps to help your dog.

***Sign up to our online newsletter today!  
Go to [www.dogaidssociety.com](http://www.dogaidssociety.com) and sign up at the bottom of the page so you can keep up to date with all DASS news.***

Despite the effects of COVID-19, we were still able to help pay veterinary fees for dog owners on low incomes. A new cause of low income was owners who had been furloughed. Again, we are seeing a dramatic rise in veterinary fees since the increase in the number of corporate-owned practices and have left our maximum of £1000 for each case in place. Despite being a semi-retired vet myself, I have been concerned that I have had to phone more practices and question some of the prices and also the procedures carried out.

For interest, here are a few of the cases we helped in 2020:

- A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who required a cyst to be removed from behind his ear and treatment for an ear infection, common in Spaniels.
- A Labrador had stones in his bladder causing difficulty urinating which had to be surgically removed. This can occur in individual dogs and be due to certain diets or sometimes for no apparent reason or can occur more frequently in certain breeds e.g., Dalmatians.
- A young Chihuahua broke his front leg requiring a tiny plate and screws to be inserted. He is now doing very well.
- A Springer Spaniel had a lump on his eyelid which was rubbing on his eye and causing pain. The vets were able to cut out the lump and repair the lid and he is now much happier.
- A Collie Cross required surgery to remove a mammary tumour (similar to breast cancer) and has also made a good recovery.

## ***Role Reversal***

I found myself on the other side of the consulting room table when I took Sophie, my own Staffie rescued via DASS, into Two Rivers vets in Biggar with a suspected bleed in her abdomen. After scanning her and tapping her tummy with a needle which showed blood in there, we performed exploratory surgery to discover she had a tumour on her spleen which had burst and was bleeding. As dogs (and humans) can live without a spleen we removed her spleen and 'touch wood' she has made a good recovery after being quite miserable for about ten days. Chicken, sausages and ice-cream again came to the rescue! There is always the worry that the tumour has spread but there is no sign of this so far. This has made me appreciate even more how owners feel when their best friend is ill.

As you may know it is compulsory to have your dog microchipped and I would say it is even more important now during this Covid pandemic with the dramatic increase in the number of dogs being stolen due to their increased value.

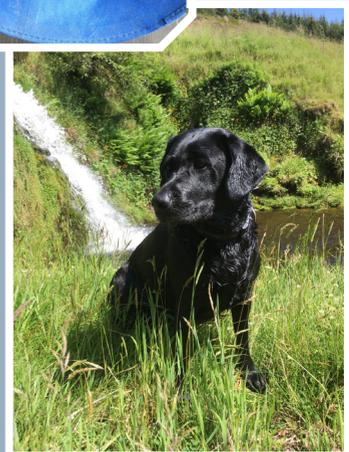
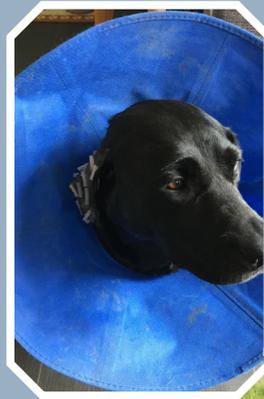
During a clinic in Edinburgh run by All4Paws (a charity for dogs of the homeless run by the students from the Dick Vet School which I help on behalf of DASS) a pedigree dog was brought in which the owner had recently bought from a stranger with the request to have a microchip inserted. The dog was scanned first and found to already have a microchip which we were able to trace and discovered he had been reported stolen from his rightful owner in Ayrshire about a month previously. He was happily returned to his grateful owner. This illustrates the merits of microchipping.

Iain Butt BVMS, MRCVS

## Veterinary Aid

Jess the 6-year-old Labrador suffered an ear infection which subsequently caused aural haematoma (blood blister) that required surgery.

This was rather costly for a single-income household and it was also seen as a pre-existing condition by Jess' pet insurance meaning her owner did not have that support. However, the Trustees decided to help with some of the cost of Jess' treatment. Jess has made a full recovery and continues to be a very affectionate companion. She loves going on hill walking adventures and cuddling up on the sofa at night which has been a real comfort to her owner during lockdown.



Top: Jess after the procedure.

Above: Jess fully recovered enjoying the outdoors.

The Society was the grateful recipient of the following legacies and donations in 2020:

***Legacies***

Mrs Margaret K. Arneil	£3,157.12
Mrs Dorothy Bird	£9,438.63
Miss Margaret Clark	£9,150.51
Ms Annie Campbell Fraser	£1,000
Mr Alan Hall	£235.84
Miss Jessie S. McKay	£3,000

***Trusts***

Elizabeth McGregor-Dziniak Charitable Trust for Animals	£6,000
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*All donations and legacies received go towards funding our various schemes to help dogs all over Scotland. We are forever thankful for these gifts, which help dogs such as Morag to find a new home while supporting her epilepsy.*



The Society would be unable to provide support to so many dogs and dog owners around Scotland without the help of many businesses and individuals. Our most sincere thanks go to:

- The Society's Honorary President Jay Crawford for his support throughout this past year.
- The staff at ICR Veterinary Surgeons at Loanhead and Two Rivers Veterinary Practice in Biggar for the care they provide to the Society's dogs.
- Jane and David McLuckie at Cranstoun Boarding Kennels for always giving love and care to our dogs when they need it most.
- To all the vet practices and The Avenue Store who continue to support us through the Dog Aid collection boxes at their premises.
- Arran Dog Bakery for their generosity and continued support.
- Floor Covering International for their neighbourly support and friendly faces.
- Every kind person who has taken a DASS dog into their home and for showing compassion and dedication to rescue dogs, and for reaching out to staff this year to check on how we are doing.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported the Society throughout 2020. Special thanks to our members and friends of DASS; without their loyal support we would be unable to continue our valuable work assisting dogs all over Scotland.

# Membership Form

## FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY



To help dogs in Scotland, I enclose:

- Cash
- Cheque / P.O. (payable to the Dog Aid Society of Scotland)

OR

Standing Order - see overleaf

Alternatively, to pay by debit/credit card, please telephone the office on 0131 668 3633.

Please tick your chosen membership and amount:

Single Annual	Joint Annual*	Life Membership
£10.00	£15.00	£50.00

\*Joint membership = Two members living at the same address.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Post Code .....

Telephone No. ....

Signature ..... Date .....

*Thank you for your kind support. If you pay tax, please consider ticking the Gift Aid box below.*

**Gift Aid It**  **Make your subscription worth 25% more at no extra cost to you!**

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid my membership subscription or donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to the Dog Aid Society of Scotland. I understand that if I pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in a year less than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**Thank You**

*To find out how we use and protect any information you give us in this form, please contact us and we will send you a copy.*

# Standing Order



To arrange a standing order for membership please enter the following details and send to:

Dog Aid Society of Scotland, 60 Blackford Avenue,  
Edinburgh, EH9 3ER

Name.....  
Address .....  
Postcode..... Tel. No. ....

Please arrange the following standing order and debit the account accordingly.

**Please ensure the commencement date is at least a month away.**

### Your Account Details

Account Name .....  
Account Number .....  
Sort Code.....  
Bank Name.....  
Bank Address.....

### Payee Details

Dog Aid Society of Scotland Account Number: 10400917  
Sort Code: 83-91-46  
CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling,  
Kent, ME19 4JQ

Please tick amount	£10.00	£15.00	£50.00	Other amount £
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monthly/annually, commencing.....20.....until further notice.

Signature..... Date .....

Thank you for your kind support. If you pay tax, please consider ticking the Gift Aid box below.

**Gift Aid It  Make your subscription worth 25% more at no extra cost to you!**

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid my membership subscription or donations I make in the future to the Dog Aid Society of Scotland. I understand that if I pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in a year less than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**Thank You**

*This summary has been extracted from the full accounts, which were approved by the Trustees on 20 July 2021. It does not constitute the charity's statutory accounts. Copies of the full audited accounts can be obtained by writing to the Society.*

## SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>		
Donations and legacies	89,654	157,691
Charitable activities	3,591	8,020
Investments	<u>82,885</u>	<u>105,062</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	176,130	270,773
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	£	£
Raising funds	24,733	25,665
Charitable Activities	<u>176,513</u>	<u>172,766</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	201,246	198,431
<b>Net (Expenditure) / Income before gains on Investments</b>	(25,116)	72,342
Net Gains on Investments	<u>47,242</u>	<u>463,226</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	22,126	535,568
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)</b>		
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	—	<u>120,980</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	22,126	656,548
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Assets	124,081	129,652
Investments	<u>3,338,616</u>	<u>3,320,997</u>
	3,462,697	3,450,649
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	3,556	4,162
Debtors	65,016	23,555
Cash At Bank & In Hand	<u>167,913</u>	<u>190,702</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	236,485	218,419
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year	<u>(13,896)</u>	<u>(5,908)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>222,589</u>	<u>212,511</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>3,685,286</u>	<u>3,663,160</u>
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted	<u>3,685,286</u>	<u>3,663,160</u>



## 2020 Annual Report

Dog Aid Society of Scotland  
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No.SC001918  
60 Blackford Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH9 3ER

0131 668 3633

[enquiries@dogaid society.com](mailto:enquiries@dogaid society.com)

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