

01743 588 469

info@dogaid.org.uk



Training pet dogs to assist ability



PawS

for thought

AGM Newsletter
Summer 2017

News from the AGM of Dog Assistance in Disability 2017



SANDRA FRASER
CHAIR

MARGARET RUSSELL
SECRETARY

MAGGIE FURMANEK
TREASURER

CAROLINE LEWIS
ASSISTANT TREASURER
SOCIAL MEDIA



STEPHEN JORDAN



ISOBEL MICHAEL
GRANT FUNDING



ANNE TUCKER



PETA BRANDWOOD
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING



AMANDA DEVLIN
PR & SOCIAL MEDIA



PAULINE THOMPSON

kindly supported by

Natural Instinct®



Dog & Cat food as nature intended
www.naturalinstinct.com



ED'S NOTE ...

Welcome to the Summer 'AGM' 2017 newsletter. In this issue you will find a roundup of the day at the AGM, minutes from the AGM meeting, Treasurer's report plus some great photos from the day. We also have a new 'cut out and keep' page for you, detailing who to contact, whatever your query. If there is anything you think could be included in our next newsletter, please get in touch, until next time

Lynn Stacey



Trainers' Workshop

October 7th & 8th 2017

Stoke Mandeville Stadium
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 9PP

For new and existing trainers and their own dogs, limited places for those bringing dogs. Trainers without dogs are also welcome.

SATURDAY

In their shoes

Practical session with dogs and props

A client's experience

Assessment process - part 1

Favourite tricks and tasks - practical

Focus exercise - practical

SUNDAY

Assessments - Part 2 discussion and practical

Off-lead work - Share and learn

Assessments - Part 3 discussion and practical

Book now so you do not miss this event

So that you can try to fulfil your commitment with Dog A.I.D. to attend at least one workshop over a 2 year period, the charity are now in a position to subsidise accommodation, breakfast and lunch and as a gesture of goodwill we also offer travelling at 20p per mile to go towards fuel

All enquiries to general_admin@dogaid.org.uk

Please DO NOT contact Stoke Mandeville Stadium direct



@dogaid



Dog A.I.D. trainers' page
email caroline@dogaid.org.uk
using FB email address



Dog A.I.D.
(Assistance In Disability)



Dog A.I.D.
members group



£178.00 was raised by selling donated items from client Pam Weir at

'Have a Good Dog's' training classes over Christmas and New Year and from a table top sale held in March. Pam donated some lovely collars and leads among other things. Thanks also to Leonie Zacharias and Barry Brewis for their continued support in raising funds for Dog A.I.D. **Apologies this was omitted from previous newsletter.**



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2017



Since the last AGM the charity have experienced a bit of a roller-coaster ride!

Our new treasurer Jim Devlin, is sadly missed after his untimely death after being with us for just around 6 weeks. In that short time he made his presence felt and left a lasting memory in the work that he started.

His daughter Amanda is here today, more about her later.

The Office, on the right track!

The team continues to grow and change, we have been joined by Kate who is working on grant applications and funding. Andrea and Katya are moving on to pastures new. This leaves a space to take on another person who will cover the roles that they have vacated. Combining the roles will enable the office to be covered on every day of the week. The team in the office are great and they are so supportive of the charity and in particular of my role where they try to reduce my workload on a daily basis.

Clients continue to be taken on where we have trainers available. We now have 89 clients in training and 75 fully qualified teams.

Trainers, top of the bill!

Without the dedication and devotion that our 91 trainers give we would not be able to exist. This year we have been able to fully subsidise the trainers' workshops in the hope that it will show how much they are appreciated. It has also helped to increase the number of trainers attending; this will be to the benefit of all. It is now hoped that we will be able to organise workshops in venues further north to make sure that distance is not a barrier to attendance.

Business Plan, on target!

We are now 3 years in to our Business Plan, when reviewing it recently I was pleased to see that we are hitting our targets. Our mid-term objective is to employ an Operations Manager, the budget is yet to be set, however if we can achieve this my time will be better used working towards moving the charity forward.

One progression that was not in our Business Plan is the change of the charity's status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, CIO, this move will protect the charity and the trustees. A huge thank you to Margaret Russell for taking on this task.

Patron and Trustees

A year ago Roger Jefcoat CBE agreed to be our Patron, this was instigated by Jim. Being able to promote Roger's name on our letterhead has surely been a benefit to the charity. Roger has been a great help throughout the year by putting grant funders in touch with us and suggesting grant funding opportunities.

With the memberships' help today we will achieve another mile stone on our Business plan; we will reach the dizzy heights of a full house with the number of trustees!

Thank you to Rachel our previous treasurer who stepped into the void left by Jim. Since then we have co-opted Maggie Furmanek into the role. Maggie comes from a financial background and is the Financial Director of Derwen College in Oswestry. Derwen College works with young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. So Maggie is very at home in the charitable environment. She is very sorry that she cannot be here today to meet everyone.

We have been lucky enough to have been introduced to Isobel Michael by Roger. Isobel has a wealth of knowledge in grant applications so will be a huge asset to us.

Amanda Devlin has been invited to join the trustees after showing interest in the charity after her father died; she said she would like to continue his legacy. Amanda works for the Sun newspaper on line and has a great deal of marketing experience.

Two trainers will complete the team, Anne Tucker and Pauline Thompson; both bring their own talents to the board.

I would like to say thank you to Caroline, Margaret, Rachel, Stephen and Peta who have supported me through the last year, the work load will now be shared a little further.

I am looking forward to the lively meetings the full board will bring.

Sponsors. Always there to help.

Natural Instinct have been faithful in their friendship with Dog A.I.D. they continue to support our office lease, the cost of the polo shirts for the trainers, the dog jackets and the supply of various items for events including the goodie bags today. They continue to sponsor the newsletter which keeps growing and now includes a third edition after the AGM. They have also sponsored Bianca's presence here today. The friendship they give is always there, at Crufts, we were made to feel like royalty when we visited the stand. Their friendship is such a great asset to the charity.

Crufts.

Another successful year as we gained more interested parties. The demos by the clients were so professional, they made the crowds stop to watch and then part with a few coins in the buckets! We were joined on one day by Paul Alborough aka Professor Elemental, introduced to us by one of our clients. His professional ability to talk to the crowds made it a very exciting day and we are very grateful for the time he gave us at this event.

Thanks must go to everyone who helped at Crufts, it is a very tiring time for all, but I know everybody enjoys being there and bringing the news about the charity to more people.

Events.

There have been fewer events this year, some events are weather dependent and need to be considered carefully. This is just one of the reasons that we did not book DogFest. It wasn't the rain this year at Dog Fest North but the sunshine, I am so pleased we did not attend as a charity; it would have been unbearable for the clients and the dogs. We will look for more covered events over the next year.

Fundraising

Clients continue to spend a great deal of their time to raise awareness and funds for the charity. This is greatly appreciated. There are too many to mention individually, but I will just mention Peter Bond, each year during the better weather he sets about locating suitable places to do weekly events at supermarkets or street collections. He does this on his own with his dog Otie. His total this year is £1033.51! His dog Otie is such a great companion to him and a great ambassador for the charity, he does a superb job and I would like to say thank you to him as well as all the other clients who give their time to raise funds for Dog A.I.D.

Thank you's

This is the bit I hate because there will always be someone that I forget!

I must say a huge thank you to Keith Sleightholm and his company ProTrainings Europe Ltd for producing and sponsoring the Dog A.I.D. video that

you have seen today. I hope he will appreciate the reason for putting the dedication at the end as it was Jim who liaised with Keith in the initial stages. It is a really professional film and covers all the aspects of the charity and it really is appreciated. Thanks also to Steve Leonard who took time out of his busy schedule to film the trainers recruitment video that is on our website, it has drawn in more trainers so is much appreciated.

Midge Walster and Karen Walker deserve a mention for working on our first book; it was such delight to see the end result of years of ideas and planning. The book will now go to a publisher for further work; thank you both for making a dream come true.

Thank you to Stephen for continuing to make all the dog jackets and supplying our corporate clothing. I never know how he does it, but he does a great job. Lynn Stacey continues to do a great job as editor of our newsletter; it brings joy to all who read it, thank you Lynn.

Thank you to Potter Reece Dolan, who have donated a Gazebo.

Thank you to Ribble Dog Agility Training Club the donation of a PA system, Wheel chair and a cupboard.

The future.

Our Business plan sets out the thoughts and aspirations for the next 2 years. Recruitment of an Operations manager is crucial to our growth, my role needs to develop into one where I can progress the charity and this is not possible whilst I am constrained by the daily office work.

There needs to be development of additional ways of meeting the needs of potential clients who we cannot place with a trainer. Residential courses may be the way forward but venues and finances need to be available to do this.

Perhaps the next 2 years will see the charity metamorphose into an even bigger entity that at this time we are only able to dream of.

Sandra Fraser 2017

How to play ...

You can play for as little as £1 per week, 50p of every £1 you play is guaranteed to go straight to Dog A.I.D. For just £1 per week you will be allocated with a six digit Unity Lottery number, every Saturday, the lucky winners are selected at random and prize cheques issued and posted directly to you.

So what you waiting for?!

To play go to www.unitylottery.co.uk

click on the 'play now' page and select Dog A.I.D. or click the link on the Dog A.I.D. website www.dogaid.org.uk

unity

50p in every £1 you spend is donated to us!

Win up to £25,000 supporting a cause you care about!

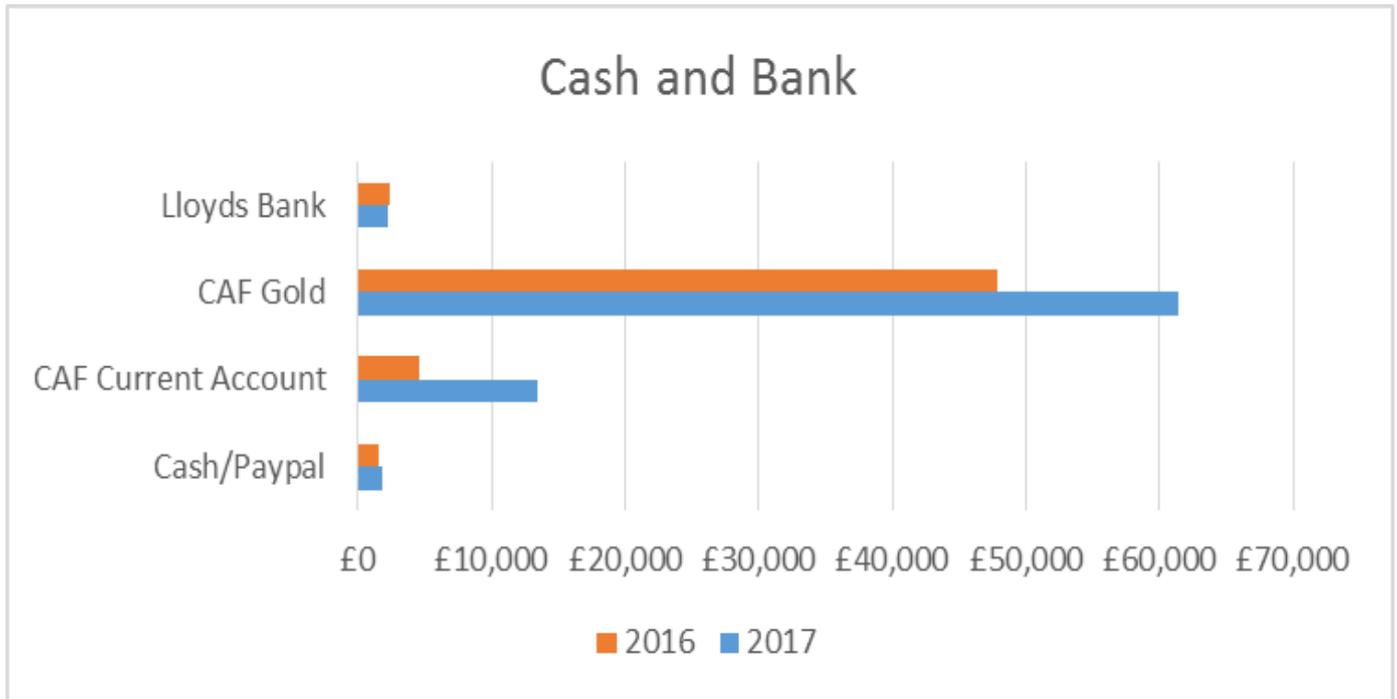
TREASURER REPORT
for the year ended 30.6.17

Maggie Furmanek, Treasurer

During the year ended 30.6.17 the charity generated a surplus of **£22,406** Income for the year ended 30.6.17 increased by **£23,529** and expenditure increased by **£2,428**. As at 30.6.17 our funds available were **£78,752**. These can be broken down as;

2017

- Cash/Paypal £1,825
- CAF Current Account £13,380
- CAF Gold £61,384
- Lloyds Bank £2,163

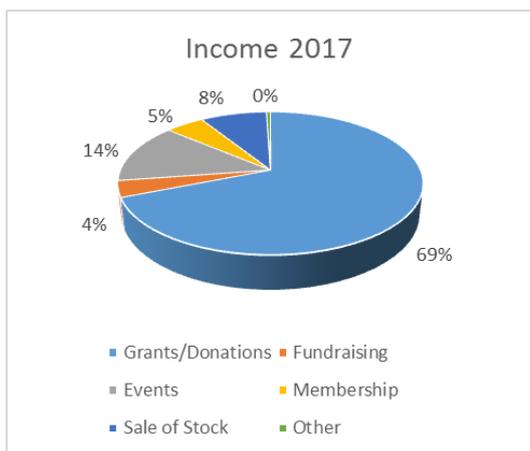


An immense thank you to all our donors – together, grants and donations totalled **£69,749**. Donations and grants over £2,000 were received from;

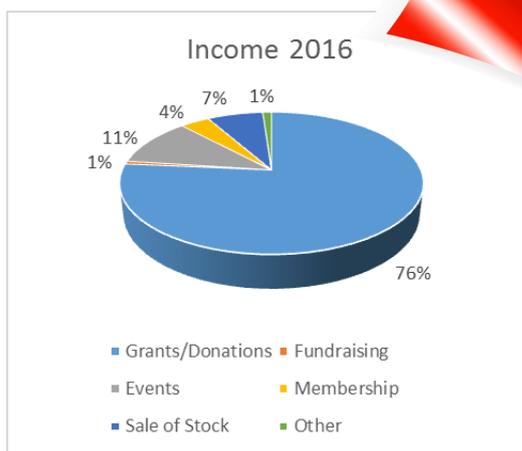
CS Heber-Percy Charitable Trust	£10,000	Kennel Club Trust	£10,000
Miliora Grant	£3,500	Hawthorne Charitable Trust	£2,500
PF Charitable Trust	£2,000	G Robertson-Peek	£10,000
Natural Instinct	£4,000	Rochford District Council	£3,208
Sandra Charitable Trust	£2,000	The Mitchell Trust	£2,000

Dog A.I.D. has a dedicated high street bank account to make deposits of donations or funds raised "super simple".
Lloyds Bank Account name - Dog A.I.D. Account number - 19394468 Sort code - 77-27-38.
 Please remember to include a reference e.g. event/collection box and Surname and send an email to either...
general_admin@dogaid.org.uk or treasurer@dogaid.org.uk with the your name and the amount you have deposited,
 otherwise we will not know where it has come from or be able to send acknowledgements

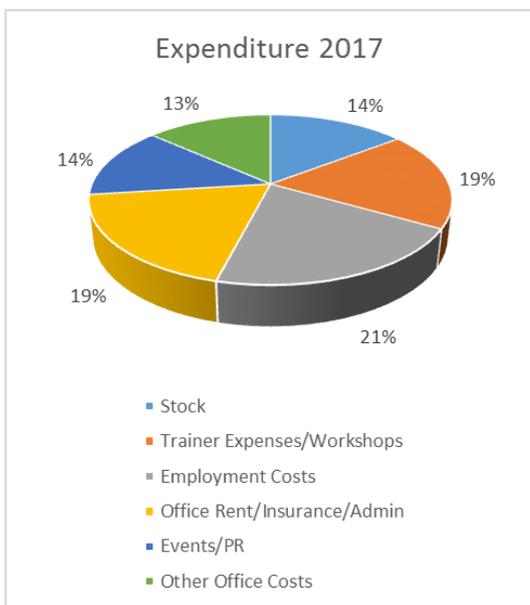
Our sources of income were



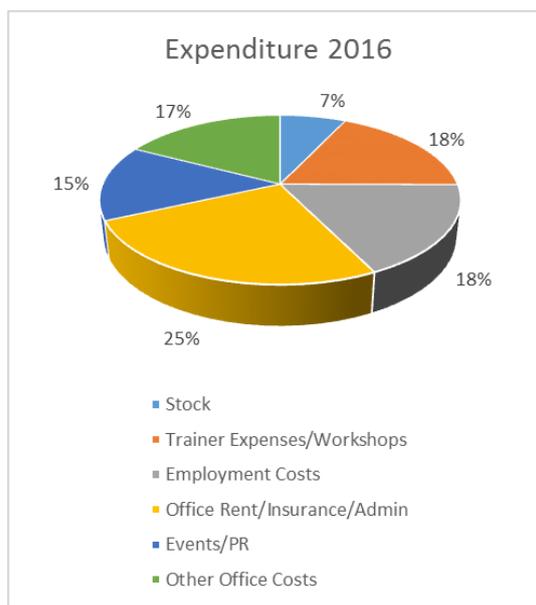
Comparing this to last year



How our money was spent



Comparing this to last year



Our employment costs increased by £2,876 as we increased the admin capacity of the office. By taking on new leased premises last year, we have been able to recruit more trainers and therefore clients.

We have been able to use our resources to further increase our number of trainers and clients;

	2017	2016
Fully qualified assistance dogs	75	56
Clients in training	89	67
Clients in the application stage	19	26
Trainers	91	80

**Minutes of Dog Assistance in Disability AGM
Saturday 29th July 2017**

Held at Avon Business and Leisure Centre, Cannock.

1.	Those present	Mary Smith, Viv & Ian Sleightholm, Bel Williams, Christine & Paul Evans, Jess & Karen Walker, Sarah Parker, Lynn Stacey & Cath, Emma Frith, Caz Edwards, Marye Arnett-Clarke, Yvonne Coleclough, Burnie Clutton, Carolyn Greenhalgh, Kathie & Tony Ward, Colin Whitt, Jill & Peter Doran, Deborah & John Cornwall, Pauline Thompson, Debbie Cooper, Julie Wassell, Maurice Millington, Anne Tucker, Sandra Fraser, Peta Brandwood, Rachel Pattison, Caroline Lewis, Margaret Russell, Roger Jefcoate CBE DL, James Leavesley DL - Deputy Lord Lieutenant Staffordshire, Amanda Devlin, Isobel Michael - NSP Philanthropy, Ann Hill, Kate Knight. Bianca Boulton-Major.
2.	Apologies	Amanda Holder, Sheila Sadler, Stephen Jordan, Maggie Furmanek, Tina Cardiff, Kate Ring Holmes, Sue Line, Helene Dyson
3.	Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting	Sandra (SF) welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Deborah Cornwall Seconded by Lynn Stacey All present agreed.
4.	Matters arising from the minutes	None.
5.	Chairman's Report	SF read out the Chairman's report, (att.) To adopt the Chairman's Report was proposed by Sarah Parker Seconded by Jill Doran. All present agreed.
6.	Treasurer's Report	SF read out the Treasure's report from MF, (att.) To adopt the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Kathie Ward Seconded by Vivienne Sleightholm SF gave special thanks to Rachel and Caroline for stepping into the Treasurers position last year. All present agreed.
7.	Election of Officers	Margaret Russell put Sandra Fraser (SF) forward as chair. Julie Wassell proposed that Sandra be re-elected as Chair; Seconded by Christine Evans. All present agreed. SF put Maggie Furmanek forward as Treasurer, proposed by Rachel Pattison, seconded by Caroline Lewis. Margaret Russell as Secretary, Proposed by Vivienne Sleightholm seconded by Caroline Lewis.

8.	Election of Committee	<p>Sandra proposed the re-election of Caroline, Rachel, Peta and Stephen; Proposed by Mary Smith Seconded, Caroline Edwards and all agreed. The Executive Committee for 2017/2018 is: Chair - Sandra Fraser Secretary - Margaret Russell Treasurer - Maggie Furmanek Caroline Lewis Stephen Jordan Peta Brandwood Rachel Pattison New Executive Committee members were proposed: Anne Tucker – Trainer Proposed by Stephen Jordan, seconded by Margaret Russell. All agreed, SF Welcomed her as a trustee. Amanda Devlin – (for radio interview coaching, contact the office) Proposed by Sandra Fraser, seconded by Margaret Russell. All agreed, SF Welcomed her as a trustee. Pauline Thompson – Proposed by Pauline Thompson, seconded by Sandra Fraser. All agreed, SF Welcomed her as a trustee. Isobel Michael Proposed by Sandra Fraser, seconded by Margaret Russell. All agreed, SF Welcomed her as a trustee.</p>
9.	CIO	<p>Charitable Incorporation Organisation - CIO Explained by Margaret Russell (Secretary). Dog Assistance in Disability is applying to become a CIO instead of its current status as a Charity (not limited by guarantee). This will not affect the clients or trainers, it is purely being done to protect the organisation and trustees. Currently the trustees are liable for the leasehold and any employment issues. MR and the office have finalised the application Constitution i.e. added the legal jargon, added Trustee order of conduct e.g. how take on, behave, leave etc. SF proposed the following be voted on; <i>It was agreed by the membership that the Trustees go forward and change the charitable status of Dog A.I.D., to a CIO Charitable Incorporated Organisation.</i> The proposal was unanimously agreed, there were No abstentions.</p>
10	AOB.	<p>Caz Edwards – would like freebies to hand out at events. She put prizes into the kiddies treasure hunt bag and got people coming back to talk to her to make donations/show an interest because of this. SF said that we could if it is sponsored, but that the charity shouldn't spend its donated funds on freebies. Bianca Boulton- Major suggested that Natural Instinct could be approached, she was sure that they would be interested in sponsoring something. KK will follow up. Morris Millington suggested that there should be a marketing budget built into Dog A.I.D.'s budget each year. Jill D. suggested a leaflet and a lolly (Dog A.I.D. sticker on lolly). Deborah Cornwall – Assistance Dog Competition for each event, with a little prize at the end of each event. Red & Rosie Book mark. Caz Edwards – Dog A.I.D. be a distributor for a dog pooper scooper gadget from America. SF asked Rachel P. to get the details and to bring it up at the next meeting.</p>

AGM Antics



Fancy that!



When we heard there was to be a Fancy Dress Competition at the AGM we knew we had to enter. The only problem was trying to decide what to go as? Our friend Jill Doran was having the same problem so we started throwing some ideas around and somehow we came up with the Wizard of Oz idea. Jill being Jill, asked why should the fancy dress just be restricted to our dogs? So before we knew it the roles were cast - Jess as Dorothy, Jill as the Wicked Witch, Minnie as the Cowardly Lion and Amber as the Scarecrow (strangely no-one wanted to be Tin Man???)

Making the costumes was quite good fun and was a bit of a challenge! Particularly Minnie and Amber's costumes. There was much hilarity involved in the "fitting" sessions. Amber's first try out of her Scarecrow costume made her develop a "John Wayne" walk!

On the day of the AGM, when the time arrived for us to get into our costumes, we had to disappear down the corridor for our quick change (which wasn't so quick!) Jill even had to go into make-up to apply her ghoulish green face paint - she always goes the extra mile! All the dogs and their owners that took part did such a great job with their costumes and looked fab! The dogs did so well keeping their costumes on - we did fear that Amber may disrobe at any moment - but our girls did well, and didn't let us down.

We were so lucky to win - a big thank you to Bianca from Natural Instinct for picking us. Minnie and Amber love their prize! All in all a great day meeting old friends and new. Can't wait for next year!

Karen, Jess and Amber



Thank you to the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire (James Leavesley), for attending our AGM so enthusiastically, we look forward to his continued support as we venture into our 25 year.

Natural Instinct[®]



Dog & Cat food as nature intended
www.naturalinstinct.com



**All Dog A.I.D. clients using
Natural Instinct get a 30% discount**



Natural Instinct[®]

Dog & Cat food as nature intended

unity

50p in every £1 you spend is donated to us!
Win up to £25,000 supporting a cause you care about!

For more information about us and what we do contact:

Dog Assistance In Disability

Earlyworld House - 7 Darwin Court - Oxon Business Park - Shrewsbury - Shropshire - SY3 5AL

Telephone: 01743 588469 - info@dogaid.org.uk - Registered Charity No 1098619 - www.dogaid.org.uk