

Steve Leonard
Caroline,
Edward and Eboni
wish you
Seasons Greetings



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Sponsored by Natural Instinct

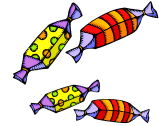
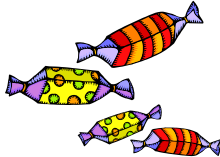


Spring Workshop
Funded by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust
April 13th & 14th

at

Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre
Yarnfield, Stone, Staffs. ST15 0NL

www.yarnfieldpark.com



Pick and Mix
Two days of fun and learning

Pick and Mix what you would like to do!
There will be a variety of working areas on both days to cover the basic exercises including lead work, greeting, food refusal and distance work.



Task work will cover pushing buttons, opening and closing doors, picking up dropped items to give to hand or put in a receptacle.
If there are any tasks or behaviours you want help with please put in your request to make sure we cover your particular needs.



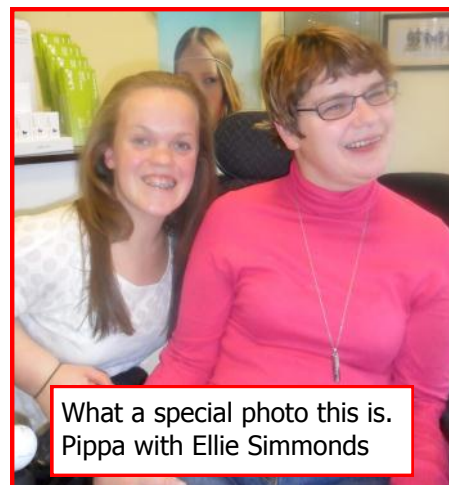
Training for Dog A.I.D. clients and trainers is free.
Dog A.I.D. will subsidise one night B&B for all clients and trainers.
All other costs to be met by the client or trainer on departure.
Non Dog A.I.D. Members are welcome at the cost of £30 per workshop day.
For bookings and further information please contact;
Sandra@dogaid.org.uk or general_admin@dogaid.org.uk
Or call the office on 01543 899463

Page 3 Girl Misty



Misty is almost 18mths old, she is a cavalier x poodle, known as a 'Cavapoo' and belongs to Pippa Bellis. Pippa got Misty when she was 6mths old and although Misty had lived with lots of other dogs she had not had a lot of contact with people so was a little shy. However Pippa and her family along with her PA Sonya have worked hard and helped Misty to overcome her shyness. Misty loves to play ball and meet other dogs.

Pippa and Misty live with Pippa's parents in the West Midlands and Misty stays at home when Pippa goes to work as an Administrator for Walsall Council.



What a special photo this is.
Pippa with Ellie Simmonds

They attend classes with the team at Avon Rd Cannock which they enjoy and are both working hard to get their Level One Good Companion Certificate.



We will miss you !

David Marter has retired from his posts as Fund Raising Manager, member of the Executive Committee and trainer. David has worked tirelessly to standardise important documents giving the charity a more professional look which is so imperative if we are to court sponsors for our future development. He leaves a legacy that will take Dog A.I.D. forward with style.

We wish him all the very best in whatever he decides to do but we hope he will not be a stranger and keep in touch. At the AGM David was presented with a sculptured owl.

Good Luck from us all.



Chairman's Report 2012.



The strength of Dog A.I.D. lies in the diversity of its client's, trainers, fundraisers, volunteers and trustees. The balance attained through the differences strengthens everything we do.

Our strengths have certainly been put to the test in the last 6 months as we have tried to keep pace with the existing client base and contend with a change to our computer systems in the office.

The year has once again been a varied one and full of changes and improvements.

Our second year at Crufts was another success because we were able to make more contacts that will impact on our future. It also made people more aware of who we are because they saw us for the second time. Grateful thanks must go to all those who helped in 2012. We will be there again in 2013 and look forward to seeing our clients there supporting us once again. If you feel you would like to come along and help on our stand for an hour our two please let the office know so that we can keep you up to date with our progress.

Workshops

Our bi annual workshops for client and trainers is secure for another year thanks to the Kennel Club Charitable Foundation. We made application to them for funding for 2 client and trainers workshops and 2 trainer only workshops. Their generosity has made the next years training possible; they awarded us a grant of £9,000. It arrived after the 2011 end of year figures were put together at the end of June so do not show on the latest treasurers report, but what a great start to the financial year for 2012. We are very grateful to this injection of funding. Our April workshop will return to Yarnfield in Staffordshire next year, dates will be in the Autumn Newsletter.

Newsletter

Our Newsletter now has a name thanks to those who voted on the website. 'Paws 4 Thought' is a great title and I hope that more people will now contribute. It is after all your magazine and a good way of inspiring those in training as well as telling others how great your dog is or how you have coped with access issues. Trainers and clients alike are encouraged to make contributions; let everyone know how you work with your client or you can offer training tips that you have found work.

With our new name we also have a new sponsor for the newsletter. Natural Instinct, www.naturalinstinct.com whom I met at Crufts. They have been generous enough to cover the cost of the last newsletter and will continue with their support. Their marketing department have already been in touch to see how they can further align themselves with Dog A.I.D.

Thanks to Midge Walster the 'Paw 4 Thought' editor, she does a great job, but could do with more input from you!

I.T.

We now have a great website thanks to Amanda Coleman and Stephen Jordan. It looks good and we have had a lot of positive feedback about it. This coupled with our Facebook page brings us in line with the other charities and helps to raise our profile. Keep posting and raising awareness of Dog A.I.D! I understand that we can 'Tweet' too!

Many of you may be aware that in May we had a new server installed in the office; this has caused us some teething problems which now seem to be sorted. At the same time we had a new Data base put on the system, this is still a new venture for the office and needs your patience as we get to grips with how it all works. Thanks most also go to Caroline Lewis who has done invaluable work on updating the website and now moves to the post of Treasurer temporarily whilst we continue to work on recruiting in this area.

The Office

Erica is doing a sterling job and as a volunteer spends many hours in the office supported by Jodie and Karen. Angela continues to do a great job as our Client Admin coordinator spending one day a week at the office as well as working from home. Until we have a system that is both workable and trackable we will remain closed to new clients, focusing on the ones that we have and monitoring the training to make sure that we are making optimum use of our resources and getting the best progress for our clients in training.

Trainers

Our trainers always deserve praise and thanks, without the valuable time they give, Dog A.I.D. would not function. The subsidised workshops that are planned for the coming year should go some way to showing our appreciation to them as we support their Continued Professional Development.

Fundraising

This is an opportunity to thank all those involved in fundraising for Dog A.I.D. There are many Groups such as the South East, Fylde, S Wales, and Cannock. There are individuals who support our 'bag packing' and local fetes such as Stephen Jordan and Jodie Griffin and more recently Edward and Belinda Williams. People who have taken part in the 'Strawberry and Cream Teas' that has now become an annual event. We are very grateful for all the time and effort you put in. There is one dog who is an ambassador for Dog A.I.D. called Google, owned by Sandy Childs. This dog goes into schools and supports a reading scheme and the schools then fundraise for us, so thanks to Sandy and Google. There are so many that deserve our thanks, you will see them in the newsletter, as we try to put in all those who have raised money and the type of event they have done. Thank you all for your contributions, as my grandmother used to say "many a mickle makes a muckle".

The biggest thanks however must go to the Fundraising Committee and David Marter in particular. The FRC has dwindled in number over the last 12 months, but their efforts haven't. Dave, Erica and Alan have kept the pressure on and covered Crufts and a number of other large events. Thanks to Alan and Erica for their continued support.

Dave Marter is now standing down, both as a trainer and as Fundraising Manager and a member of the Executive Committee; his legacy to Dog A.I.D. is immense. He has drafted and raised many important documents and policies as well as developing a handbook for fundraisers. All this is in addition to improving our funds through various methods such as sourcing goods for sale and advising on the 'Case for Support' for grant applications. Quality Assurance and Standardising have been his ethos! He will be sadly missed by us all. We all wish him well in whatever he chooses to do in the future and sincerely hope that he keeps in touch with us – there will always be work for him to do if he has some spare time!

Patrons

Our thanks go to our Patrons for their continued support.

Steve Leonard will be delivering another amazing talk for us in October. (Don't miss the opportunity to see Steve in person, more details on the website)

Aiden Burley sponsored tickets to the first Cannock Business Awards that were held in July. Dog A.I.D. was nominated for an award but were pipped at the post! We will try again next year. We were pleased however to receive £200 from proceeds raised from a raffle on the night.

The Future

I like the use of metaphors; I often think they make situations more understandable. I have thought of this year rather like a sea journey, we started off with the ship full of resources, some of those have been used up and we need to replenish. In the last few months it would seem that we have become becalmed. What we need is the wind behind our sales and an injection of new resources. It's on its way! We have already had some input from Alan Brooks (ex Guide Dogs Senior Manager) and his colleague Emma Hobbs a Marketing Manager, who have acted as business mentors. One of our clients Rachel Nickeas is working on putting together information for grant applications and Roger Jefcoate CBE, the patron of another charity has helped by supplying a free place on a workshop for grant letter writing.

Nothing ever remains the same, change always comes. We still need to 'take on board' people who have experience in Marketing, Publicity, Events organising and of course an experienced Fundraising Manager. If you don't have experience in these areas still let the office know if you are interested in becoming part of our core helpers, we may need you to help man a stand at an event or come along to Crufts to help us.

With a following wind and fair weather we should now sail forward into the next part of this exciting journey.

Sandra Fraser

September 2012.

A huge thankyou to the Kennel Club



A charitable gift of £9000 was made to Dog A.I.D. to pay for this years work-shops. We are grateful for such a generous donation and on the behalf of our clients and trainers we wish to thank the Kennel Club and hope the stories in our newsletter show how much it means to them.

Ella and me on our first workshop with Dog A.I.D.



Wow! Finally it's here, I've been so excited, I've driven Ella mad, going on and on about this forthcoming trip to Dorset. She just looks up at me, with that confused look on her face as if to say 'I haven't the foggiest idea what you are going on about, if only you could speak doggie language'.

We travelled down on the Friday, amazing weather. When we arrived at Holton Lee Ella's nose was twitching ten to the dozen, just imagine the information she was getting from the air, 'deer, rabbits, foxes, badgers, squirrels, birds, etc, etc', her head must have been spinning. Me, on the other hand, my head was spinning so much I thought it was going to spin off!

I have never seen such good, disabled accessible accommodation, in such quantity. We were in the 'New Barn', there were ten fully accessible twin rooms, all with electric top and bottom adjustable beds, one of which had hoist rail above, which lead right into the wet room. Each room also had patio doors, which opened out, with flat access, onto the garden area. We spent the evening getting to know one another and after breakfast on Saturday morning we all set off to the hall.

Another lovely day, so we started outside. Angela talked to us about reading our dogs body language, fascinating! We all had a go at some Level 1 exercises, which I found interesting to watch, with our new insight on reading the dogs. Then into the hall, Ella was transfixed by the floor, so funny! Despite that, we did manage to get some more training done, although her fascination with the floor did manage to distract her from time to time.

On Sunday, after a gorgeous breakfast, catered by Sandra and Midge, we all set off to the hall for the AGM. After the AGM, there was a presentation for David Marter who has retired; he will be greatly missed.

Then Mo Aegerter did a demonstration of 'Wheelwork to Music' with her assistance dog 'Breeze'. Despite the accidental attempted sabotage, (crumbs of livercake on the floor) Breeze and Mo were brilliant. I was amazed at how beautifully wheelchair and dog glided together across the room. Next, was the opportunity to have a go ourselves. Previously, I had told my friend that at this point we could leave as I had thought it would not be my thing at all, but I was chomping at the bit to have a crack at it and I found it brilliant. So much so, that I made enquiries into doing it again the day after I arrived home. All in all the weekend was amazing and Ella and I have learnt loads. Thankyou to everyone who helped to make it happen. Sandra and Ella xxx

Sue Bailey Fewings and new dog Binnie



I arrived at The Barn, Holton Lee on the Friday evening with new puppy Binnie a golden Labrador and trainer Pauline McGinn. Binnie will replace in time Dusty my nine year old black Labrador who has been previously trained by Dog A.I.D. Have you ever had the feeling of relaxing into a warm bath? Well this is just how it felt to be met by Sandra, Midge, Erica and Angela. Although I had only previously spoken to Erica on the telephone we could not have been made more welcome.

What a day Saturday was, meet and greet for the dogs and handlers in the car park of the Furzebrook Village Hall. Sun shining and Angela giving a short talk on the ability to talk "dog" for which I will be forever grateful to her just one small piece of advice that dogs are not always thinking as humans was invaluable to me so "YAY Angela"

Being able to see when the dogs are stressed "lip licking, yawning, and eye avoidance" and then the de-stressing by the shaking from head to toe was invaluable information. We all had turns in various controlled situations to make sure we had taken on board this information. Binnie was just taking it in her stride and watching all of the others being the youngest there I was not sure she would be ok but little love that she was went through it all like a pro.

After going through the recalls with distractions, door control, and various other exercises it was time to enter the hall. Sandra then took us through "our" ups, downs and sits.

Time for the dogs to have "time out" and lunch for us (very enjoyable it was too with fresh cream scones as well)

Afternoon session began with away down's using Binnie for teaching aid and all was going well until a certain person used a louder voice than I use which had Binnie back up to her mummy as if to say save me please.

Midge showed some fantastic aids which were absolutely brilliant, wheelchair leads with snap and click connections, waist leads with double hand holders so you can use to keep dogs safe in certain conditions and for the life of me I cannot think of what the other one was called but I am ordering six to be used as door pulls. (see page 16)

After a great day at the hall and wonderful evening with clients, trainers and dogs all together back at the barn. Although it went on quite late the time just flew by. Chatted to Mo who was demonstrating heelwork to music on Sunday and how some of the moves are useful for assistance dogs, and it's off to bed.

Unfortunately on waking it was obvious the only place I was going was home to my bed. I missed the demo but can I say once again a huge thank you to Dog A.I.D. who arranged this weekend from Binnie and me.



Please convey my thanks to everyone involved with last weekend. I can't find the words to say how wonderful it was. I learnt a lot of practical things but most of all I gained confidence in myself and Elsa. It makes such a difference to see other Dog A.I.D. dogs to see how they are progressing and to feel part of a family. I have made friends with other people who understand but don't judge me or Elsa.

Vivienne Sleightholme

Important Notice for all Dog A.I.D. Members **Membership Renewals**

Firstly, I would like to apologise if some of you feel that I've been badgering for your membership payments over recent months. Secondly, it is absolutely essential for the future of our Charity and the on-going support for clients both in-training and fully qualified assistance teams, that membership payment is made in a timely manner.

- The cost of annual membership is £20 per annum, per client
- All memberships expire 30th June each year*
- Renewals reminders are sent out in June of each year, together with the Annual General Meeting paperwork
- In order to remain a client, whether in training or qualified, membership payments need to be received by mid-July. Failure to do this may result in training being suspended, or being removed from the scheme
- Membership can currently be paid by either a) cheque payment direct to the office; b) Internet banking/BACS (using both your name and that of your dog as the reference), or c) as a last resort (as we do not receive the full amount) it can be paid by Paypal. This method is also difficult for us to track. Due to the costs incurred we do not have a card machine to accept payment over the phone
- If there is a genuine reason why payment cannot be made during the renewal period, a call to the office to explain can be made and an extension may be given

* New clients who join our scheme after 31st March are not required to pay again until July of the following year; thus giving 15 months membership rather than paying again after 3 months.

Currently the charity is stretched to it's limits with administration work and many unnecessary hours have been spent chasing overdue membership payments. We are all volunteers at Dog Assistance in Disability and we try very hard to keep the membership payments as low as possible to benefit all of our clients. To this end it is very important that clients respect this and pay their fees on time. Therefore we hope that all members will be more forthcoming with payments in future. *Erica Bennett*

Notice to All Clients Coming Your way Soon

As part of our continuing drive for Quality Assurance, Dog A.I.D are planning to ask all clients to return a monthly report whilst in training. At the moment monthly reports are completed by trainers, this will continue, but we want to give our clients the opportunity to express how they feel training is progressing and if they think they need any extra advice.

It will all be done on line where clients have internet access, those that don't will be asked to send them by post. It will be a simple tick box form with room for comments.

It may be the New Year before this starts, but we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sandra Fraser

Achievements



Level One Good Companion

Richard Johnson and Jake-Trainer Kate Morgan-Lloyd
Richard Brown and Tara-Trainer Wendy Schilling
Kendra O'Shea and Molly-Trainer Midge Walster
Nikki Gibbs and Indy-Trainer Lorraine Godfrey
Gemma Jones and Kira-Trainer Sandra Fraser
Debbie Abbott and Harry-Trainer Midge Walster
Sandra Crouch and Ella-Trainer Julie Hilliard



Level Two Advanced Good Companion

Alison Tompsett and Millie-Trainer Midge Walster
Eluned Plack and Merlin-Trainer Angela Pitman
Chantelle Rea Bradley and Ruby-Trainer Lyn Fleet
Barbara Edmonson and Meg-Trainer Lyn Fleet
Tamara Hancock and Moya-Trainer Carol Court

Level Three Final Certificate

Margaret Hood and Penny-Trainer Hazel Reynolds
Maureen Wakeman and Storm-Trainer Carol Court
Edward Williams and Eboni-Trainer Angela Woodhouse

An Evening with Steve Leonard.

Many thanks to Steve Leonard our Patron for giving us another entertaining evening.



The night was full of entertaining Steve Leonard history; having wryly started to wonder if the BBC are trying to kill him off, his first half was entitled 'The top ten ways to die' and he counted down his top ten hairiest animal encounters in his humorous and inimitable style.

Steve was kind enough to bring, from his home collection, a beautiful photograph of a rescued elephant to raffle for Dog A.I.D. It has already found pride of place in the home of winner and huge fan, Marianne Rutherford.

He talked about his experiences working with all kinds of animals from his BBC 1 and ITV documentaries to his own small animal practice in rural Shropshire including the interesting animal that is the 'vet student in the wild'. The night was intriguing and a pleasure to listen to.

It was a great night out, not to be missed!

Make sure you get to see him next time he does his next talk.

The evening was a great success, raising valuable funds for Dog A.I.D.

Edward Williams

Roll of Honour

Our grateful thanks to all who have

Raised their paws to support our cause

April 2012

Craft Fair held by Jackie Linton at Avon Centre Cannock £170

May 2012

The Strasser Foundation, £200, inspired by the talk given by Diane Brassington

June 2012

Caroline Foster did a sponsored fun run and raised £76.

Capable K9's DTC, (Dog A.I.D. Trainer Pam Simpson), donation of £1000. "We work for Dog A.I.D. and donate any monies over and above what we need to run the club. This money is a combination of income from lessons given and a donation box"

July 2012

Mr and Mrs Powell, £100, "We recently returned from holiday and again Elaine has cared for our lovely dog Millie. As usual she will not accept any money and is always happy for us to donate to your charity to assist with the excellent work that you do."

Caz Edwards raised £95.40 at Midlands Labradoodle Show.

Mid Southern Dexter Group, £46, proceeds of a raffle drawn by Morag Sutherland.

Dog A.I.D. received a cheque from Cannock Chase Business Awards for £200

Erica Peachey, money collected at dog classes, £18

Swindon Old Town Rotary Club, £235, Have a Go Dog Course run by Janet Garrett and her Puppy Skool

Lions Clubs International, Cannock £200,

Howden Joinery sponsored Gemma Jones for her training class £150

August



2012

Sandon Village Fete at the Parish Hall was attended by Erica and Alan Bennett, Stephen with Rossi and Jodie with Buddy. At a later date we were presented with a cheque for £1000.

Bank of England, £500, donation from Payroll Giving Matching Funds Scheme courtesy of Jane Day and friends.

Edward and Stephen were presented with a cheque for £545 by the 'Get Off Your Butts' Motorcycle Club, Staffordshire.

September 2012

Johnsons Tiles, donation of £840, instigated by Jodie and Buddy.

Money is not the only thing we are grateful for!

Special thanks go to our helpers in the office. Karen (Wednesday morning) collection boxes and banking reconciliation. Jodie (Tuesday) database and PA role. Edward (Thursday) is the newest recruit who is helping Angela and Erica in an admin role. Not forgetting Alan (Erica's husband) He does so much and is very very supportive, he helps out wherever and whenever he can, doing cash, stock checks, telephone calls, artwork, events and anything else he is asked to do in spite of having cancer and at present undergoing treatment. Erica says "If it were not for him and his support, I would be unable to do as much as I do!"

Fund Raising in the South East

June 2012

Hextable Jubilee Celebrations. Stall with tombola and other sales, thanks to all those that helped £205.30

Talk given by Ben Hart at the Scout Hall Hextable Kent, courtesy of Lorraine Godfrey. Lorraine has rescued horses and just like rescued dogs they often come with problems. Lorraine uses clicker training to change their behaviour and her mentor and friend is Ben whose passion it is to show animal owners there is a way to help animals with positive reinforcement. What a great evening it was, Ben could earn a living as a stand up comic because he had us laughing from the first few minutes. However he certainly got his message across about positive training methods and helped us to raise £551. Thankyou Ben, hope we can call on you again.



July 2012

Strawberry Tea. In spite of the weather we had a great day! Lorraine and Mick Godfrey kindly allowed us the use of their land on Black Horse Farm also supplying two huge marquees. There was 'Have a go Agility', dog games, and a demonstration of Heelwork To Music by Trish

and Sarah from Hextable D.C. Thankyou to all those that helped and contributed, we raised £225.55.

Kent Housing Association Dog Awareness Week. Dog A.I.D. Attended two days and raised £37.

August 5th & 12th 2012

Following the success of the Strawberry Tea, Trish and Sarah offered to do two days of Fun Agility at Black Horse Farm where we were made welcome by Lorraine and Mick once again. Included in the cost of the day was a ploughmans picnic lunch. We raised £352 over the two days so thanks again to all helpers.

September 2012

Talk by Midge at Trefoil Guild, Crockenhill, Kent £45

Paws in the Park, a two day event at Kent Show Ground, Detling, Kent A big thankyou to Alison and Derek Tompsett for fronting this event. Alison did a magnificent job with



a huge tombola which attracted lots of people to our stand, not to mention her dog Millie who was a great ambassador for Dog A.I.D. with her calm and friendly greeting. The event raised £258.12

Welcome to Lorraine Tilston-Brookes as an area fund raiser in Dover Kent.

In the summer I asked my trainer Sarah if she was interested in helping me do some fundraising for Dog A.I.D. and she agreed, not only to help me with the stall but also in donating 10% of her takings to Dog A.I.D. from the leads, collars and harnesses that she makes on the day.

August 19th Our first stall at a dog show in Faversham. Sadly it wasn't a very well attended show but we did raise the grand sum of £18.95.

August 27th Our second show was at Northbourne, a small village near Dover. The show was put on by the Manston & District K9 Society who have kindly said we can just turn up to any of their shows with our stall, and hope in the future to be able to donate the profits from one of their shows to Dog A.I.D. We are also discussing the possibility of staging a Dog A.I.D. Companion Dog Show!! We raised £42, including Sarah's donation from the Faversham show.

September 15th We were invited by the Hawkinge Community Warden to attend a charities only Canine Capers Dog Show in Hawkinge Community Centre. It was a very well supported little show. We raised £38 from the tombola and Sarah's donation from the Northbourne show.

September 30th We attended another Manston & District show at Pegwell Bay, near Ramsgate.

There was a good turn out and I entered Poppy and Magic into a few classes. I am delighted to say they were placed in every class, Poppy came away with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd and Magic got a 2nd & a 3rd! They were very busy with people wanting to meet them and ask about the breed and how Poppy would help me once fully trained, so we all had a tiring day, the photo shows just how tired the girlies were, but very proud of their rosettes. We raised £49. *Lorraine*



Dog A.I.D. Merchandise for Sale

Squiggle Pen £1.50



Car Sticker, wording is 'Dog A.I.D. Supporter' £2.00



Cosy Clicker
£4.50



Retractable Keyreel
with Dog A.I.D. Logo
£3.00



Enamel
supporters
badge £2.00



Dog A.I.D.



Bandannas £4.50

Road Refresher Bowl
Large £11.95
Small £9.99
Crate brackets
L. £5.99 S £4.99



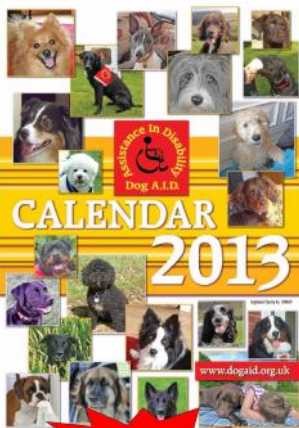
Canvas Shopping Bag
18 inches x 15 inches
£3.99



Blank greeting or notelet cards, 4 in a pack consisting of two designs picturing Dog A.I.D. dogs working or playing. Sample shown, one of 12 packs. View on our website shop to make your choice.

Every Penny Counts

Send for a Penny Pot label to stick on an empty coffee jar and save those pennies hanging around in pockets and purses. You will be surprised how quickly the jar fills.



£5

Includes optional envelope

Dog A.I.D. 2013 Calendar is now ready for you to order. It will make a lovely Christmas gift for family and friends. The pictures inside are all of Dog A.I.D. dogs working or playing.

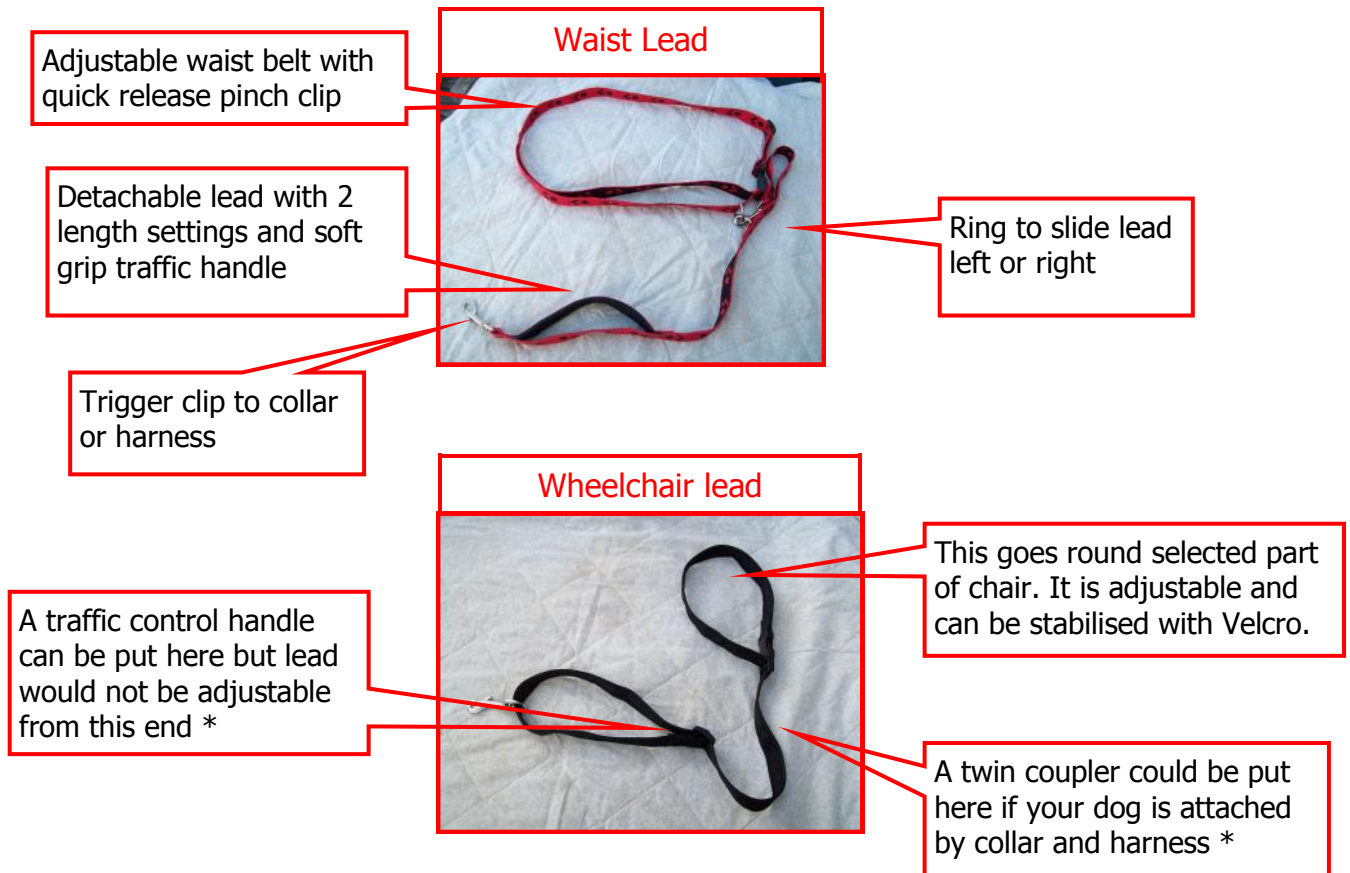
Apologies to those people who sent in photos that haven't been used. For printing purposes the quality, composition and size of the photo is very important (for the experts among you 2 MP = 1600 x 1200 pixels is what we require as a minimum) therefore we have to be very selective. However we hope you will go on trying and send in some seasonal photos during the year so that we can begin collecting for the 2014 calendar.

Raffle Winners

- 1st Prize Digital Camera 0324 K O,Shea Kent
- 2nd Prize £50 cash 0249 P.Bellis Staffordshire
- 3rd Prize Toni & Guy Hairdressing Voucher 2096 T Hunt Staffordshire
- 4th Prize £25 John Lewis Voucher 0970 R.Evans Lancashire
- 5th Prize First Aid Pouch for Pets 2426 M.Nicholls Staffordshire
- 6th Digital Key ring 0757 White (no further information) Hampshire
- 7th Prize Hungry Hounds Picture (limited edition) 1191 A. More Pembrokeshire.
- 8th Sheep pictures 2736 M.Strange West Sussex.

New Leads

These leads are designed by Lorraine Tilston-Brookes and made by her trainer Sarah Stirling-Ash. Sarah has kindly said she will donate a percentage of sales to Dog A.I.D. See below



Ball or plaited tuggies for use on doors, cupboards or walking aids, as shown.



Flat webbing (as in waist lead) available in 25mm width

Cushion webbing (as in wheelchair lead, a softer webbing) available in 20mm & 25mm

Colours depend on availability at time of ordering

Waist lead from £20.00 inc P&P, depending on specification requested* £2.50 goes to Dog A.I.D.

Wheelchair lead from £10 inc P&P, depending on specification requested* £2.50 goes to Dog A.I.D.

Strapped/Hooked Twisted/Ball Tuggies £2.00, 50p goes to Dog A.I.D. postage works out expensive for what they are (70p 2nd class just for 1) so best to order with leads, but am happy to send on their own and will quote postage for each order.

To order contact Mrs Sarah Stirling-Ash, email: sarahstirlingash@hotmail.com tel: 01304 241339

Orders cannot be taken at the Dog A.I.D. office.

A huge thank you to Natural Instinct for sponsoring our Newsletter for the second time.



Meet the Team at Natural Instinct



The founders of Natural Instinct and their dogs (from left to right): Blou (Rhodesian Ridgeback), Michael McVay (Director), Ruby (Doberman), David Brock (Director), and Maggie (Welsh Terrier)

Our tale began with our perpetually ill Welsh Terrier, Maggie, an increasingly out of hand vet's bill and a nagging suspicion that our dog's lifestyle was far from ideal.

Leaning on his chef's background, Michael began to think about the benefits of adopting a raw, back-to-basics diet. That evening the decision was taken to overhaul Maggie's daily diet and within days her various debilitating conditions had cleared up and she was off her medication, enjoying a new lease of life.

Natural Instinct is founded on the simple premise that dogs and cats deserve a healthy, biologically appropriate, balanced diet made from all-natural human grade ingredients with no cereal or fillers. We use only the very best DEFRA approved British meats and premium quality fruit and vegetables, ably supported by natural supplements such as spinach, sea kelp and Scottish salmon oil that combine to ensure a top-notch meal brimming with essential nutrients.

Why Your Dog Deserves A BARF (Biologically Appropriate Raw Food) Diet (this piece was assembled in association with top vet, Nick Thompson)

Despite being a far from ideal acronym, it's important to understand that BARF isn't a foolish fad for over-indulgent pet owners. It is however a simple, back-to-basics pet feeding philosophy that puts your dog first by reminding pet owners that the phrases 'processed' and 'quality' rarely sit at ease together.

Putting aside the fact that our best friend's ancestors were happily hunting and scavenging long before phrases like bake, braise, broil or boil had ever been invented, there's oodles of modern day evidence to suggest that when it comes to looking after your dog's health interests, a new way of thinking is long overdue.

Website www.naturalinstinct.com phone 01276608500

Nikki and Indy



Hi, my name is Nikki. I have Multiple Sclerosis and Asthma. We didn't intend to get an assistance dog. My husband, daughter and I had lost our 14 year old Rough Collie, leaving our 11 year old Border Collie, Dexter, destroyed.

Although we searched loads of rescue places, we could not find a rescue dog suitable for him. He was, quite literally, losing the will to live.

We found a breeder who had two puppies left from his recent litter. Not originally wanting a pup we decided training a puppy from scratch would be a lot easier than training an older 'damaged' dog (we'd done that with Dex).

Indy, now 2years old, settled in immediately, following Dex everywhere, copying him, pulling his tail and ears and chewing off his whiskers! He became 'himself' again.

It didn't take long to see she needed more in her life. We had a very intelligent, willing dog and it was suggested she might be able to help me. Searching the internet we found Dog A.I.D. I was put in touch with Midge and met Lorraine who became my trainer. With Lorraine's help it wasn't long before I began to understand just how much Indy would be able to help me. Indy and I have recently achieved Level 1. I am so proud of her. She loves to learn and picks up anything I drop putting it on my lap. On one particular occasion she found a dead mouse and, not thinking, or looking properly, I asked her to give it to me. As you can probably imagine my response was not the one she was used to!

She brings me my inhaler, the phone, mobile phone (which has helped with more than one emergency) and helps get the washing out of the machine, amongst other things. Above all, I now have the confidence to leave the house with her by my side.

We have been to our local field, trips to what is fast becoming her favourite place, - the pet shop and met loads of friendly people. I have even joined an M.S. lunch club. As a family we cannot thank Dog A.I.D., Midge, all our new friends at training in Hextable who have also helped considerably and, obviously, Lorraine for all her time and help and patience without whom we wouldn't even have taken the first step outside on our own.

Love to you all.

Nikki, Indy & family xx



Thankyou for volunteering your time and expertise.

Many thanks to Paul Mallatratt who has been our treasurer for 18 months. Unfortunately for personal reasons Paul has left. We would like to wish Paul good luck for the future and thank him for his work for Dog A.I.D.

Caroline Lewis has stepped in to hold the post until a new Treasurer can be found.



Moya and the Puppies



Moya has not only become a perfect companion who is always there even before I know I need her, but her miracle side came into effect when our beautiful Shih Tzu passed away 2 days after giving birth to 2 boys and 2 girls.

At first I was very worried that because of her size she may hurt them by mistake as she is a strong dog. So for 2 days she stayed by my side watching me struggle every hour getting up and feeding them and trying to get them to help themselves. For 2 days and nights she sat by the cage and would not sleep.

It was too much for me to watch her like this as by then she was shaking, so I laid out a blanket and asked her to down and put these tiny little 4 day old puppies in between her arms. Moya looked so full of joy, she did what any auntie would do and she gave them all a bath and cleaned their backsides and then fell asleep with them all.

From that point on Moya raised the pups (I know Carol my trainer say's I did it). I truly believe without Moya I would not have had the strength to keep them alive as my disability was taking its toll. I fed them and Moya did all the rest, even when it came to teaching them how to walk. In the end all 4 pups survived and all have good homes. We have kept the girls and now it is Moya who teaches them the house rules!



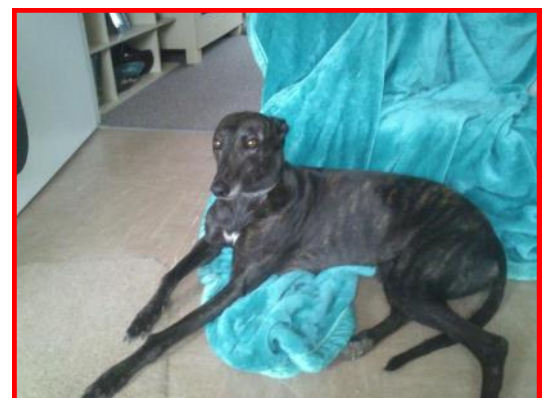
If I had not had Moya, those pups would have died. I am unable to sit up in bed by myself, every hour she lifted me up to go and feed them. If I needed anything ie: bring me the toilet roll, she would get it. She went beyond just being my assistance dog, on the day our dearest Twiki passed away and Moya became mum and I will never forget how she kept 4 miracles alive! Just one last thing: Moya is a 4 way cross power breed all of which no one would believe could do what she has done. Her mother was a Ridgeback x Boxer and her father was Dog De Bordeaux x Bull Mastiff. *Tamara Hancock*

So proud of Molly!

Molly and I were in our local park practising recall and it was going very well even with a few distractions when a guy approached with an Alsatian on a lead. I said please keep your dog on the lead for a moment while I put my dog back on her lead. The guy said no and released his dog. The next part happened so fast, his dog launched itself towards me barking and growling, Molly came from out of nowhere and blocked me from the dog. The Alsatian bit Molly on the top of her leg making a hole about the size of a 10p, she yelped but didn't run off, in fact she practically sat on my lap to make sure the dog didn't get to me.

I shouted at the guy who quickly put his dog back on lead and ran off. I couldn't keep up on my mobility scooter, I called the police but they couldn't do much.

I was so proud of Molly she saved me from getting bitten so Paul and I spoilt her for a few days while her wound healed. She definitely went above and beyond her training to protect me. *Polly*



Deborah and Charlie



I am using Charlie my labrador as an assistance dog to help me because I suffered two strokes in June 2010. Charlie was bought as a pet in March 2010.

Luckily in those few weeks I had with Charlie I crammed lots in. I socialised him well. I already had another lovely yellow lab named Ozzie who is a rescue from Ireland. The pair are lovely. It was felt that Charlie would be the best to work with me as he is a couple of years younger than Oz and quite easy going. We are at the beginning of training but all looks promising. He is a working labrador with FTCH going back many generations in his pedigree. He really enjoys all aspects of training and working. He sees it all as fun and enjoys the structure of following commands. He of course has plenty of time to just be a lovely pet spending time relaxing with his brother on the sofa or in his bed. He loves to lay on your feet and chase rabbits which he never catches. He lights up when he is training and out playing having his downtime. Charlie gives me confidence to go out alone as my balance is very poor. I struggle with spatial awareness and judging distance and gaps. When I am with

Charlie he helps me work it out and I know if I touch him with my leg I am moving too far and I then know to stop and re-calculate my position. Both my dogs have helped my mood and my determination to keep moving forward with my life. I have had to learn to dress myself, organise the order I have to do things in to complete tasks, bath, shower, feed myself etc, My dogs have spent many months sleeping with me as this was initially all I could do. As time passes I am able to do more and my fatigue is not as intense. I have a PA who also supports me. My dogs however have kept me going as have my husband and family. The dogs and I have special bonds. When I came home from hospital after being away for two months they instantly understood I was weak, confused, exhausted and did not remember where my lounge, kitchen, bathroom were etc. None of this mattered to them as they were just happy that I was home as was I. The time we have together is always easy, enjoyable and unconditional. This was always the case. I would not have thought it possible but I feel my bond with them becomes stronger every day. I could never be without them.

Deborah Boocock



The Mystery of the Lost Toys

by Vivienne Sleightholm and golden doodle Elsa

Can anyone explain these odd happenings? On three consecutive days this week three of Elsa's soft squeaky toys have gone missing from our garden overnight. She normally does not leave toys out at night but the weather looked fine and I did not feel 100% so I let the first one, a little grey rabbit stay out. Next morning I sent her to fetch her toys but 'Bunny' didn't appear! All other toys were accounted for so I thought it would turn up.



The second night, toys were left out and the next morning 'Duck' didn't appear! After Elsa searched the garden including her 'not so secret' den in the trees my husband conducted a thorough search. No luck.

That night toys came in at bedtime but early next morning Elsa took several toys out to play with. Before we left the house I saw 'Foxy' lying by the back door but the door was locked and the key elsewhere and it was daylight, what could happen in a couple of hours in broad daylight! You've guessed it! Foxy was not there on our return!!

The garden has been searched, the neighbours gardens have been looked into and a brief search of the large field and ditch beyond our garden has been made as best as my husband could. We even looked and poked around in our ornamental pond in case Elsa had been playing tricks! Can foxes or magpies or mice or any other wild animal have a need for a dog's soft squeaky toys? Two days on and three new toys later (why wasn't it the cheap toys!) still no explanation. Would the neighbours in our village think me mad if I put up a poster for;



Lost- Three soft squeaky dog toys!!

Brave Megan by *Debbie Blackham*



I had always been an active and healthy person, loved sports and always 'on the go'. However, several years ago my health started deteriorating and I found myself increasingly unable to do even the simplest of tasks.

I experienced overwhelming fatigue and weakness and constant pain all over my body. I had paraesthesia in my limbs, muscle spasms and cramps. My weakness got worse and I had a lot of falls as my legs gave way. Sometimes I was too weak to move and didn't even have the strength to eat or drink and was getting a lot of infections and illnesses.

It was a frightening time as I didn't understand why my body was failing me. I was in and out of hospital and after many tests and investigations I was diagnosed with M.E/CFS and also fibromyalgia, two debilitating illnesses. I was later told I also had peripheral nerve hyperexcitability. This was quite a shock but my consultants assisted me in making the necessary adjustments to my life and I was provided with assistants to help me with everyday living.

But they weren't available 24/7 so I would sometimes have to manage by myself which could be difficult and also lonely at times.

Not used to being so inactive and needing so much rest, I could get quite bored when my daughter was at school. With just my elderly collie 'Jade' for company who spent a lot of time sleeping, so in early 2011 I decided to get a border collie pup who I named 'Megan'.

Little did I realise what a huge impact Megan would have on my life.

She was the most adorable little pup and brought me so much joy. She kept me company and unlike most collies she was quiet and really laid back. She was extremely obedient so basic training was a doddle, she just seemed to want to please me in any way she could. She didn't seem to require a lot of exercise but preferred to keep me company. She would look me in the eyes when I talked to her and prick up her ears and would even 'talk' back to me.

But I didn't think this was enough for a young dog and I wished she had a more fulfilling life.

Then one day I read an article about Dog A.I.D, and I instantly realised this is what we both needed.

Megan could help to give me a bit more independence and due to her nature I knew she would enjoy helping me and give her something to do.

I contacted Dog A.I.D and after a visit from the trainer, Sandra, Megan and I were accepted onto the course to train her to become an assistance dog. This was fabulous, not only for her but for me too. I had become pretty much house bound and this became an opportunity for me to meet some lovely people and make new friends and I looked forward to meeting everybody each week.

Megan loved the classes. She surprised everyone by her passive and quiet nature, but quickly picked up what was required of her and seemed to love every minute of it.

She soon started to help me with little things around the home and was well on her way to becoming a great assistance dog.

The bond between us grew and I realised that this little dog had become a part of me, she had become my arms and legs as she learned to fetch things for me or pick up things that I had dropped. She was so willing to help me and seemed to love every minute and I couldn't wait to teach her more as she seemed so keen to learn.

In July 2012 I went on holiday to Greece, and although I was sad to leave Megan behind I knew she would be well looked after by the people who were house and pet-sitting.

The day before I was due to come home the nightmare happened! I had a phone call to say that one of the sitters had left the house but left the door and garden gates open. My darling little Megan had gone out onto the road and been knocked down by a car!

My whole world fell apart!

The news was not good, she was in a critical condition and I was not there with her and unable to comfort her. You can only imagine what I was going through, all I could do was pray that she would pull through.

The following day after the plane landed I rushed to the vets, hoping and praying that she was still with us. To my relief the vet reassured me that she was stable but the next 24 hours were critical.

The following day I wept with joy as I was told that she was out of danger.

However, there was some bad news, her front right leg had been crushed and she would need it amputated from the shoulder.

I was full of mixed emotion, joy that my little Meg had survived but so angry and sad for her.

The vet was saddened when he found out that she was a trainee assistance dog and because of this he decided to seek the expertise of a specialist orthopaedic vet to find out if there was any alternative to the amputation that would enable her to live a normal active life and possibly continue her training.

To our surprise there were actually a few alternative options.

A partial amputation and a permanent prosthetic limb could be implanted. However, this would mean many operations and a 6 week stay in hospital and I didn't want to put her through that.

Another option was to try to reconstruct the leg as much as possible, but this would mean fusing the wrist and the foot would be permanently deformed, so she would be unable to walk properly. It would also have meant a series of painful operations over many months.

The third option was for an American company to make a strap-on prosthetic limb for her and after we had seen their videos of dogs with similar artificial limbs the vet contacted them. After seeing the x-rays they suggested an amputation at the wrist which would enable them to make a tailor-made prosthetic foot for her. I watched two videos of dogs with similar amputations that were walking completely normally without even a limp, running and jumping around just as though the foot was real, so I knew we were making the right decision.

She would be able to live a completely normal and active life, so a couple of days later her foot was amputated. Work on the prosthetic would take place a few weeks later once the swelling had gone down completely.

Megan came home just 2 days after the amputation and I was amazed by the speed of her recovery. She was running about the garden on her 3 legs, chasing after her ball, her little tail wagging, very glad to be home once again.

My worst fear was that her personality would have changed, or that she would be traumatised or permanently affected by the events.

I need not have worried, she is exactly the same little Meg that I know and love. She doesn't seem any worse for the experience and doesn't even seem to be bothered by cars.

For a while I was very wary of her doing things and scared to let her do too much, but she seemed subdued and bored. She'd stare at me with her ears pricked up, as if to say 'give me something to do'. So tentatively I started to ask her to fetch a couple of things for me. Her tail wagged with delight and the sparkle in her eye made me realise she still loved helping me.

So we are once again practising the things that she was learning at the Dog A.I.D classes and she is loving every minute of it. It's still early days and only time will tell how far she will be able to go once she has her prosthetic fitted, but she has amazed me with what she has achieved so far.

Her leg is healing well and she will soon be going for a cast of the stump so that the prosthetic can be made and fitted.

Her spirit and enthusiasm have taught me a thing or two. When I have bad days I get down about my own disabilities and the limitations that I now have, but then I think of Megan and how brave she has been, how happy she is and it gives me hope.

She has already achieved so much since her accident and is such an inspiration in overcoming her own disabilities to live life to the full

Dog Assistance In Disability

Providing access to dog training for people with physical disabilities, enabling them to train their pets in general obedience and in specialised tasks which will help them lead a fuller and more independent life.

Trainer Application Packs.

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Caroline Lewis and Jodie Griffin Forum Moderators

Link to forum on web site Web address <http://www.dogaid.org.uk>

The Aims of the Charity *The training and instruction of dogs to act as efficient and safe companions and assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. To train and educate people with physical disabilities in the proper and safe use of dogs. To provide such additional services and facilities for the relief of people with physical disabilities as the organisation shall from time to time deem fit.*

Objectives

1. To provide access to dog training for people with physical disabilities.
2. To educate people with physical disabilities how they can best care for their dog in relation to their disabilities.
3. To educate people with disabilities how they can create the best bond between themselves and their dog.
4. To ensure the dog is well socialised in relation to the environment it is to live and work in.
5. To help people with disabilities to train their dogs in basic control both inside and outside the home.
6. To help people with disabilities train their dogs to carry out specialised tasks in order to assist them to manage their disability in everyday life.
7. Where it is required, to seek rights of access to individual shops and institutions.

Sports Girl Shadow by Alan Sheriff

Shadow by name and Shadow by nature says Alan.

She follows us everywhere, and is very attentive to whatever we are doing.

Shadow was 10 months old this week. We got her at 11 weeks, and she started her Dog A.I.D. training when she was 5 months old.

She loves to play and constantly fetches us things to throw, but her particular favourite is to play with a pull rope. It can occupy her for ages. She also loves to play ball either with a tennis ball or a football, and will always join in games in the garden with our son and his mates. Not sure her efforts are always wanted though!

She's doing well with her training, is keen and picks things up quite quickly. She is now able to fetch things and put them 'in' - such as the washbasket, washing machine, or the waste bin. Training is just like a big game for her, and quite often she'll just bring us something - a slipper, the towel etc for us to start some training with her. Of course, it could just be that she wants some extra sausage!

We have several other pets and she is really good with them. We have a house rabbit and Shadow will often go and lay by his side. He isn't fazed by her at all. She'd also love to be friends with our cat, but the cat has other ideas. Shadow is certainly more careful about sticking her nose where it isn't wanted now! She doesn't know what to make of our snakes though, I think she thinks they're big shoelaces or something.

