

The Daily Tail

Winter 2023



FERGUS

A Message from the Team at DAWGS

After 19 years of service to DAWGS our Chair, Mary Diack, retired in August. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary for her dedication to helping dogs in need and for her years of service to DAWGS.

We are also very grateful to Charlotte Ryan, who retired as a Trustee this year after 19 years of service. Charlotte was also a committee volunteer. After 3 years of service as a Trustee, we would also like to thank Alan Milne. Upon retiring from work, Alan decided to hang up his DAWGS boots too!

We are pleased to announce that Angela Taylor has been elected as our new Chair. Having volunteered for DAWGS for nearly 4 years, Angela will be known to many of you. She is the proud owner of Ralph, a black Labrador retriever, who volunteers as a Therapist.

On her election as Chair, Angela said: "2023 has been a year of massive change for DAWGS during which we have seen several long-standing Trustees stand down as well as our Rehoming Officer, Carolann Milne, moving onto pastures new. However, we were delighted to welcome Vicky Conner as our new Rehoming Officer. Vicky has a wealth of experience and knowledge of dogs, which will stand her in good stead for her new role with DAWGS.

Completing the pack, we are pleased to share that we have welcomed Ian Millar, Ross Thomson and Emma Willox as Trustees. We are also delighted that

Audrey Connon and Isabel Craik continue to remain as Trustees. A special thank you to each Trustee for all the support provided this year.

Our pack also comprises of our Treasurer, Laura Imlach, Shop Manager, Lynda Tonge and Heather Wakeling. Along with our numerous volunteers, who give up their time to foster dogs, walk dogs, carry out rehoming checks and work in the shop - without you we could not run the charity! On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for the time you give to volunteering at DAWGS.

Next year will be a BIG year for DAWGS as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. In preparation of this momentous occasion, we are looking for ideas for a 'Celebration of DAWGS Event' in the late spring/summertime of 2024 - if you have any suggestions, please drop an email to angela.taylor@dawgs.co.uk

Since the last winter edition of our newsletter, we have rehomed over 70 dogs. We recognise how difficult it can be to make the decision to rehome a dog, but we now have 70 dogs who are in their new forever homes. We sincerely thank everyone who contributes to DAWGS, whether it's been trusting us to rehome your dog, by rehoming one of our dogs, working for us, volunteering or fundraising for us. Please know that you are very much valued by the Board of Trustees.

All of us at the DAWGS team wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year."



DAWGS Welfare Fund

Over the last 12 months our welfare fund has paid out almost £7,000 to 19 dogs in need of care. Our welfare fund is available to anyone who needs help with their dog's wellbeing.

Whether it's for food, veterinary care or any other aspect of welfare a dog requires, we are here to help. The fund has helped dogs with neutering, teeth issues, broken bones, seizures, lump removals, food, epilepsy and scans.

If your dog needs our assistance with any aspect of its welfare, a payment of up to £500 is available (paid directly to supplier). Please contact us on 01224 208989 or visit our website for an application form.

www.dawgs.co.uk

Rehoming Stories



MOLLY

"Molly came to live with us in 2014 - she was 7 months old. My husband and I took her out for walks together when we could, but occasionally I walked her by myself - she would pull me, bark at me, and make it clear I was not behaving as she wanted me to.

I asked my husband if she could go back to DAWGS - his response was that I would have to leave before she did and I would just have to try harder to behave! We found a dog training group to help sort me out!! That went well for a while until the day a new Alsatian dog was placed next to Molly and my inability to prevent her from reaching it ended up in both Molly and I being asked to leave the building.

My husband took over Molly's training and he put me through my paces at home...so here we are 9 years later and Molly and I are best pals - although she occasionally pulls me and barks very loudly to make sure everyone speaks to her! She chats to us in her own unique interpretation of human conversation which makes us laugh.

Almost everyone in our area knows her and she won't let anyone pass her without saying hello, especially if they have previously given her a treat. One of her favourite tricks is to jump up and walk along the school wall just like the kids do, and this makes everyone smile.



She is very good when our son's Jack Russell, Bella, and our 2½ year old grandson come to visit. Bella is usually in charge with our grandson not far behind and Molly is usually last. She tolerates them both playing with her toady and taking over her space. She loves to play ball out in the back garden, and she takes us out for 2 walks each per day!

Our house would be very dull without Molly. Please extend our grateful thanks to all at DAWGS for allowing her to come to us and share our love and brighten up our lives."

Rehoming Stories



BOBBY

“Our experience with DAWGS could not have been easier.

After an initial in-depth conversation with the Rehoming Officer on what we were looking for and ensuring we were suitable candidates, we were contacted within a very short time with a possible suitable dog.

As this happened whilst there were still covid restrictions, we met outside at our house and were informed that if all parties were happy and of course the dog was happy then he would be with us from that day. We immediately gelled and Bobby has enhanced our lives since then.”



If you have a DAWGS dog and would like to share your story, please send it to: info@dawgs.co.uk

DAWGS
Calendar
2024



DAWGS Calendar

Our fabulous 2024 calendars are now on sale - a bargain for only £6! The perfect gift for any dog lover's Christmas stocking or a new year first footing gift. They can be purchased directly from the shop or posted at an additional cost. Please call our shop on 01224 314293 for further details.

Fond Farewells

MARY DIACK

Mary Diack retired from her role as Chairperson and Trustee in August of this year. She had been involved in the running of the charity for 19 years and Chairperson for the last 6 years.

Mary was involved in many aspects of the charity from home checking, rehoming, moving the charity from Aberdeen to Alford, setting up the charity shop, attending events and anything in between! She would often call on family to help, and she always seems to know somebody who knows somebody, which was a great help.

During her time with the charity, Mary and her husband Alan fostered between 15-20 dogs and rehomed 4 dogs.

They currently share their home with Scruffy who has lived with them for the past 7 years. Quite a few of her family, friends and neighbours also have DAWGS dogs!

We would like to thank Mary and her family for all their years of passion and commitment to the charity, trying their best to find great homes for as many dogs as possible - over the 19 years there were hundreds!



Fond Farewells

CHARLOTTE RYAN

"Way back, last century, my then boss, Isabel Craik (now DAWGS Vice-Chair) got me involved volunteering at coffee mornings, shows, etc.

After we lost our son in 2002, she got me on to the Fundraising Committee, which later merged with the Management Committee. In 2012, this became the Board of Trustees when DAWGS became an SCIO. I was secretary by this time, and remained so until retiring in June.

I grew up with a Cairn terrier, then poodles until we lost our 'Penny Poodle Pup', as my son called her. As I was back working full time, we had a long time without a dog until after I retired and we rehomed Candy, then a 10 month old Yorkie. Now about to be 12, she is still very active and as bossy as ever!



I have many happy memories of working with DAWGS. At events, home checking, helping in the office, meeting lovely people and especially the dogs, not all of whom behaved! One in particular springs to mind. A wee pug, I think, was meeting potential new owners in the field behind the Lang Stracht office. It slipped the harness and took off down the hill and in to the burn! We had been called by the couple, and I ended up over my ankles in the water and found the dog hiding in a tiny cave behind rocks! I thought we were going to have to get the Fire Brigade out, but I managed to move a rock big enough to get at the dog and get him out. He was fairly dry, more than I was! The couple still took him home and loved it.

There will always be circumstances for people where rehoming their dog is the only option and DAWGS do their utmost to find the best match for their forever home. In today's financial crisis, help with food donations and vet bills can see them through these tough times and DAWGS are here to help with the Welfare Fund.

Volunteers are essential to the charity. The Charity Shop in Alford and appearances at events could not happen without them and individual and group fund raising is always much appreciated.

I wish DAWGS all the best going forward, helping dogs to their forever homes."

10 Things Your Dog Would Tell You

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful: remember that before you get me.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me - it is crucial to my well-being.
4. Do not be angry at me for long, and do not lock me up as punishment.
5. You have your work, your entertainment, and your friends. I only have you.
6. Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it is speaking to me.
7. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget.
8. Remember before you hit me that I have teeth that could easily hurt you, but I choose not to bite you because I love you.
9. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I might not be getting the right food, or I have been out too long, or my heart is getting old and weak.
10. Take care of me when I get old; you too will grow old. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say: "I cannot bear to watch" or "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there, even my death. Remember that I love you.

A wee reminder to us all to treasure the humans and dogs in our life.



Everyone at DAWGS wish you
a very happy Christmas and
a peaceful new year.



Annual Raffle

Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket this year.
Congratulations to our lucky winners.

1st Prize: S Knowles, Stonehaven

2nd Prize: E McMorland, Stirling

3rd Prize: J Douglas, Elgin

Support Us

We are dedicated to finding loving homes for dogs whose owners can no longer care for them. We receive no government funding and rely on the generosity of our supporters to continue our work. Join us in making a difference to a dog's life. Thank you for your kind donation.

Scan to Donate



Contact Us

Dawgs Head Office
51 - 53 Main Street
Alford AB33 8PX

www.dawgs.co.uk

Rehoming officer: 01224 208989
Email: info@dawgs.co.uk

Charity Shop: 01224 314293
Email: shop@dawgs.co.uk

Opening Hours	Rehoming Office	Charity Shop
Monday	0930 - 1430	1000 - 1500
Tuesday	0930 - 1430	Closed
Wednesday	0930 - 1430	Closed
Thursday	0930 - 1430	1000 - 1600
Friday	0930 - 1430	1000 - 1600
Saturday	Closed	1000 - 1600
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Who's Who?

Rehoming Officer: Vicky Conner
Shop Managers: Heather Wakeling
Lynda Tonge
Treasurer: Laura Imlach

Trustees

Chairperson: Angela Taylor
Secretary: Ian Millar
Trustees: Isabel Craik
Audrey Connon
Ross Thomson
Emma Willox

Dog Action Working Group Scotland
(known as DAWGS) is a Scottish Charitable
Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated
by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Scottish Charity number: SC022666



Proud printing pawtner

DAWGS

Best Friend Scheme

Giving up a dog can be one of the hardest decisions to make. For some, illness, frailty, bereavement or a change in family circumstances leave no alternative. That's where DAWGS helps.

DAWGS is a registered charity that finds loving new homes for dogs in such situations. Our dedicated rehoming team make the transition as easy as possible - carefully matching prospective new owners, doing home checks and follow up checks just to be doubly sure. And once a DAWGS dog – always a DAWGS dog – we are there to help throughout the lifetime of the dog.

We accept dogs of all ages, breeds and sizes. While puppies may be easy to rehome, sometimes older dogs or those with ongoing conditions are not.

In emergency situations we fund veterinary care, kennelling or foster care until a new home is found.

Some dogs require one-off veterinary treatments and others require ongoing care for the rest of their lives. Because of this, in some instances, we face ongoing costs over many years.

We are prepared to do this because, like all other dog lovers, we sincerely want all dogs, large or small, young or old, pedigree pooch or Heinz57, to have the best possible chance to give love and be loved for the rest of their days.

It costs over £350 to rehome every dog – more if kennelling or veterinary care is required. We receive no statutory funding and rely on our own fundraising efforts along with support from dog lovers like you to keep our service going.

Through our DAWGS Best Friend Scheme, for as little as £5 a month, you can help DAWGS to meet the costs of kennelling, veterinary charges and the many

other expenses incurred in finding new homes for dogs which, for one reason or another, can no longer be looked after by their owners.

Over 4000 dogs of all ages have already found loving new homes through DAWGS. Please help us help even more.

In return for your generosity, we will keep you updated via our "Daily Tail" newsletter. You can also keep up to date on our website at www.dawgs.co.uk

Please become a DAWGS Best Friend today. Complete the form overleaf and return it to our office.

On behalf of our four legged friends –
THANK YOU.



Standing Order Form

Your Personal Details (please print)

Full Name	<input type="text"/>	Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other)	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>	Post Code	<input type="text"/>
I would like to make a regular monthly donation of	£5 / £10 / £20	£	<input type="text"/>

(Please highlight or add the amount you wish to pay)

by standing order to Dog Action Working Group Scotland (DAWGS) Scottish Charity No. SC022666 to assist in the funding of their dog rehoming service.

This order to take effect as from / / and thereafter until further notice.

Bank Instructions

To (Your Bank Name)	<input type="text"/>		
Bank Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>	Post Code	<input type="text"/>
Account Number	<input type="text"/>		
Account Name	<input type="text"/>		

Please pay the amount indicated to:

Bank of Scotland, 389 North Deeside Road, Cults, Aberdeen AB15 9SX

Sort Code: 80-06-19 Account Name: DAWGS Account Number: 00298633

Gift Aid Declaration

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax and/or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount of tax which we can reclaim during the tax year. I want this charity to treat all donations I make and have made for the past four tax years and from the date of this declaration to be eligible for Gift Aid Donations until I notify you otherwise.

Tick if eligible

Signature	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
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Please return this form to DAWGS at 51 - 53 Main Street, Alford AB33 8PX