



The newsletter for supporters of Dogs Trust Ireland

Dog Tales

Winter 2022

The Tail of a Busy, Busy Year

See how your support held it all together

When It Really Is Goodbye

Making memories, coping with loss and honouring your best friend

Is That You, Santa Paws?

Our dogs' Christmas wish lists

Minnie's Happy Ever After

How a tiny ice queen finally melted

We're There for Dogs No Matter What

How you can be there too – our Christmas campaign has more details



Husky Hellos from Your Supporter's Reporter, Sasha

A big dog snout-out to all our special supporters from me, **Sasha**. We've got so much to share with you in this edition, so let's get started straight away!

It's been a tough year. Some of our big dogs – like me! – are finding it hard to make a match, and we had a lot of people asking to surrender their dogs. In this issue, some of our humans will talk about what this might mean for next year.

We also want to talk about what happens when you lose your best doggie pal – how you can prepare when you know it's coming, how you can take care of yourself when it happens and how you can honour your best friend's memory and help to care for dogs like me at the same time.

Most importantly, I want you to feel great about everything you've done for dogs this year. Whether you adopted, fostered, sponsored, donated or helped to raise funds, you kept our tummies full and our bodies healthy, and you helped our human team to find amazing homes for so many of us. You really are the best! See you next year!



Super girl **Sasha** is on the lookout for her forever home.

About Sasha

This gorgeous Husky girl would love an adult only home where a big dog can have a bit of space to sprawl out when she needs some alone time. She loves treats, walks, playing with her teddies and just generally being admired by her people. Sasha would need to be your only pet, and she does have some medical needs, but nothing too hard to handle.

2022 You Did So Much For Dogs, You Deserve a Round of Ap-paws!

Your support helped 476 dogs to find their forever homes this year – including **Pluto**, our long-time sponsor dog!



Your support meant **Pluto** was kept safe and happy until his forever home happened, and now that support is helping other underdogs too.

A fantastic 203 families completed Dog School, with a total of 315 classes held this year.



Fab **Freya** is just one of the very good dogs who graduated Dog School this year. Well done, everyone!



Sharon had a ball in her foster home this year, thanks to fantastic supporters like you.



Zoe and her dog **Louis** were among the thousands who made **99k** for **Canines** such a success this year.



You made your voices heard, with 38,782 of you signing our petition to end cruel puppy farming practices. Watch this space for more ways to speak up for dogs in 2023.



You gave **Doodles** everything he needed to get back on his paws and find a loving home after his terrible ordeal.

No wonder **Gracie** is smiling – thanks to your support, the **Regional Rehoming** team was able to nurse her back to health and find her a fab home! You made this magic happen!



You were there for dogs like gorgeous **Gracie**, a beautiful Lurcher who came to us with awful wounds. Thanks to you, she got the essential medical care she needed to recover, and all the help she needed finding her new home.

You fostered 358 dogs, giving them a chance to experience home life, and us a chance to provide potential homes with even more information about these lovely dogs.

Your vital support keeps the 200+ dogs we have in our care healthy and loved while we work hard to find them the forever homes that all dogs deserve.

Even when **Neville's** feeling sleepy, he is safe and loved while he waits for his ideal people to find him. This is only possible because of the support you give. Thank you so much!

Rocky and Jack Star on This Year's Christmas Cards

Now available in our online store, this year's Christmas cards feature exclusive art by Pawtraits by Ciara. Each pack contains 12 cards, 6 of **Rocky** the Akita and 6 of **Jack** the Collie – two best boys all ready for Christmas! **Packs are €8 each, and you can get them at DogsTrustShop.ie**

Please note that the last day for online ordering before Christmas is 14 December.

Christmas Treats for the Dog Lover in Your Life

(Oh, wait, that's you!)

We've got all the gifts you could want to show off your love for dogs in comfort and style in 2023, whether you're at home or out and about. These fab, fun items are available at **DogsTrustShop.ie**, along with plenty of other gift ideas. Please note that the last day for online ordering before Christmas is **14 December**.

Any item you buy from our online shop helps dogs like **Rocky** and **Jack** to find their forever homes. Thanks for shopping!



Nova was pregnant when she was thrown out in the cold with nowhere to go. The situation for abandoned dogs like her is critical.



Dogs like Nova are facing an unprecedented rehoming crisis, and your help is urgently needed. Please send a gift that will save another vulnerable, abandoned dog that has no hope without you.

When we first laid eyes on Nova, we honestly couldn't believe she was pregnant. She was so skinny.

This beautiful girl was starving. Her emaciated body was truly a heart-breaking sight.

But, despite her appearance, Nova was indeed pregnant. And very close to giving birth.

Sadly, Nova's story is not unusual. Dogs like her are abandoned and left to fend for themselves all too often. Hungry, scared, cold, they have nowhere to go and nobody to turn to.

You are their only hope.

When Nova arrived at Dogs Trust, she was shockingly weak. Any bit of nutrition she had was going straight to her unborn pups. This had left her frail and barely able to stand up.



When we fed her, she scoffed down every morsel of food she was given. Who knows how long it had been since she'd last eaten?

Imagine what would have happened if Nova hadn't been found when she was? It truly doesn't bear thinking about.

She would have gone into labour and given birth out in the cold, with nobody to care for her and nowhere safe for her to keep her babies. And, if by some miracle her weakened body survived the birth, her pups almost certainly wouldn't have.

Dogs like Nova deserve better. With your support, more abandoned dogs like her can be taken to safety and given the love and care they deserve. **It cannot happen without you.**

Shortly after she arrived into our care, Nova gave birth.

This poor mum was desperately weak after her pups were born. At the vet's, she received injections of nutrients to build up her strength so she could care for her nine babies. But even with this extra support, she still needed help. She needed you.

Your support is vital. Without it, little families like Nova's don't stand a chance.

Despite her feeble state, Nova desperately wanted to care for her babies. Thanks to support from dog lovers like you, our puppy rearers could handfeed her pups during the day, supplementing what Nova gave them at night and relieving the pressure on her tired body.

This gave her a chance to be the caring mum she wanted to be.

Nova and her puppies were cared for in our whelping unit, which only exists because of our supporters.

Sadly, the demand for space in the unit is relentless and the pressure mounts each time we get a call about another abandoned, pregnant dog.

When we take that dog in, she will give birth and, overnight, we can have up to 10 new dogs to look after and find homes for.

Sadly, the pressure is not just space-related, it's financial too. And abandoned dogs are not immune to the cost-of-living crisis facing us all. The costs are quickly spiralling – rising utility bills, dog food, vet care.

The fact is, it's because of your support that these dogs will get the best possible chance in life.

What's more, this year we've seen a devastating rise in the number of dogs being surrendered or abandoned. And the sad reality is that we are finding it more difficult to find the perfect forever homes for all the dogs and puppies in our care now that lockdown days are over and life is returning to normal.

The heart-breaking reality is that we are constantly full, and we are having to turn dogs away due to a lack of space.

Nova and her pups are the lucky ones, but they're not out of the woods yet. Our puppy rearers continue to work round the clock to look after them, and our Veterinary team continues to monitor them and ensure they're all getting stronger.

It's only thanks to compassionate people like you that this level of care is possible. Without your support, dogs like Nova have nobody. **And you are needed now like never before.**

Will you please send an urgent gift to help save another helpless, abandoned dog that has nobody else to turn to?



Use the donation form attached to your letter



Go to DogsTrust.ie/DogTales



Call us on 1800 25 29 23 (Option 3)

Puppy Farming is a Life Sentence

Winter is here, a time to wrap up warm and keep things cosy for ourselves and for our best doggie pals. Time to put up Christmas lights, break out the cosy dog blankets and light the fire to make everything as warm and comfortable as we can, for ourselves and for the dogs we love.

No Comfort on Puppy Farms

Unfortunately, not all dogs get such care and consideration. To puppy farmers, Christmas is just another money-making season, and keeping their dogs comfortable would just eat into their profits. I'm sure it upsets you to know that they think nothing of keeping dozens – sometimes even hundreds – of dogs in dirty, dark, freezing cold sheds, without a kind word or a caring glance. That's why they feed the bare minimum to miserable mums turning out undernourished litter after litter – it's all just for a quick sale. These people don't care that the dogs they breed from are sick, depressed and scared, or that the puppies they produce could be underweight, ill or totally unsocialised.

They don't care about worms or matted fur or the lonely life sentence they impose on dogs, while they take their young pups away from them, year after year.

They don't care because their cruelty and neglect pays them!



Everyone Else's Problem

- Who does pay for their cruelty? Everybody except them, that's who.
- ❖ The families who buy puppies, handing over extortionate amounts of cash with absolutely no aftercare and no comeback if something goes wrong.
 - ❖ Most of all, the dogs whose whole breeding lives are spent in filthy, lonely, frightening conditions.
 - ❖ Rescues, like Dogs Trust, who, funded by your love and generosity, take in seized, discarded or unwanted dogs from puppy farms. Already with limited resources, they spend time, money and a lot of effort to get them healthy enough in body and spirit to rehome.

The laws on puppy farming are robust and clear. Prosecutions are being brought. But puppy farmers don't care because the anonymity of the internet makes them hard to trace. People's desire for a puppy at the click of a mouse gives them a willing market. And even if they do get caught, the fines they pay are a pittance.

Fines Are Barely the Price of One Puppy

In the last two years, we've spent €61,085 on veterinary fees alone, treating 161 victims of puppy farming. Here's what Executive Director Suzie Carley said:

'We were particularly shocked at the small fines imposed on the puppy farmers responsible for the 161 victims of puppy farming we recently cared for... The cost to us, just for the veterinary care of the dogs, was €61,085, but the fines imposed were less than €2,000 to those responsible. Those numbers just don't add up, especially when you consider what these unscrupulous individuals are charging unsuspecting members of the public for the puppies they are selling.'

Head of Communications Ciara Byrne added, 'It's beyond upsetting and demoralising to see people who have inflicted a lifetime of misery on dogs receive a slap on the wrist when prosecuted. It's not only the parent dogs who suffer, but often their puppies have a lifetime of behaviour issues, and in many cases veterinary issues, from the cruelty involved in the bad breeding on puppy farms. We are urging people to support this campaign and show the public appetite for harsher punishment for puppy farmers, as the penalties being imposed at present are not a deterrent.'



Make Them Pay

Thanks to supporters like you making your voices heard in recent years, the laws around breeding and selling puppies are stronger than ever, but the penalties need to be tougher.

A community of dog lovers paying for the crimes of illegal puppy farmers. Where is the justice in that?

By signing our petition on DogsTrust.ie, you're letting the Department of Justice know that the people of Ireland want appropriate punishments for convicted puppy farmers. Fines should at least cover the cost of bringing the victims of puppy farming back to full health, and they should hit the perpetrators of cruelty in the only place they care about – their pockets.

A Heartfelt Message to All Our Supporters

From our outgoing Executive Director Becky Bristow...

During my time as Executive Director, our hard-working team and our incredible and dedicated supporters have grown Dogs Trust into a truly nationwide organisation, ready to help dogs in as many ways as possible. You show your love for dogs in all you do for them, and we channel your love into the areas where it's most needed, through rescuing and rehoming as well as informed and enthusiastic advocacy.

Sometimes working at Dogs Trust is hard. You see shocking things and you hear shocking stories. There can be heartbreak and great loss. But there is huge joy in working around dogs and with being responsible for an organisation that represents so many people's positive feelings towards our doggie pals. I know I will continue to support Dogs Trust wherever I go, and I hope you will too. It's been fantastic to work here. Thank you so much for having me.

What are you most proud of during your time with Dogs Trust?

How incredible the whole team was during the pandemic. Despite all the unknowns, everyone wanted the rehoming centre and charity to stay open and keep looking after and rehoming abandoned dogs no matter what. It was a risky thing to do, but everyone was united in that. I was so impressed by how quickly and enthusiastically the team rose to the challenge of continuing to operate, raise vital funds and keep safe from COVID-19 at the same time. Our supporters were incredible too, responding to huge changes with love and positivity. It was amazing.

Outgoing Executive Director Becky Bristow with little Mixie.



Returning Executive Director Suzie Carley and pal Minni.



What do you feel has been your biggest achievement in the last three years?

Creating a sustainable future for Dogs Trust Ireland. I developed a strategy to 2030 that allows us to truly stand on our own as an all-Ireland organisation, both financially and when it comes to rehoming dogs.

Was there one dog who stuck out to you while at Dogs Trust?

I met Vinny, a big fluffy Collie, in December 2020 during a video interview with *The Irish Times*. He was in the Training Barn to have some training and play time but kept dashing over for a bit of attention. It was love at first cuddle. I used to sneak to his kennel and bring him for walks. He didn't react well to other dogs, so it was a joy to find out that a few weeks after he was adopted, he made friends with the next-door neighbour Labrador. I know that Vinny was lucky to be adopted, but I think his new adopter is the truly lucky one as Vinny is pure love.

... and our incoming Executive Director Suzie Carley

As a dog lover, you know how tough things are at the moment for dogs and their owners. 'Lockdown puppies' being handed into rescues. People facing huge challenges renting with their dogs. Puppy breeding continuing unchecked. Costs rising everywhere, for everyone. People forced to make impossible decisions. It feels like a return to the bad old days, but things are different now. We have a strong, clear voice. We have a nationwide organisation of committed dog lovers who will not fail. We have each other, and with our incredible supporters we are determined to make Ireland a great country for dogs and the people who love them.

What do you see as the biggest issue for dogs in Ireland at the moment?

Unfortunately, we are seeing multiple issues facing dogs at the moment in Ireland. Firstly, a huge number of people welcomed dogs into their family during the COVID-19 lockdown and some are now sadly struggling to keep their dog, some due to a breakdown in the relationship between a dog and its owner/family or they don't have the necessary support in place to look after the dog now that they are returning to the office. It really is an incredibly difficult time for dog owners and their dogs, and we would encourage anyone facing these kinds of challenges to contact us, we are here to help, advise and do whatever we can to be there for dogs and ensure that they have a happy life worth living.

What are you most looking forward to since returning to Dogs Trust?

Hitting the ground running and getting stuck in! With the combined efforts of our incredible Dogs Trust team, volunteers, and supporters we have made phenomenal progress in dog welfare across Ireland since we opened our doors in 2009 but we still have lots more to do. I'm thrilled to be back and part of the next exciting phase of our journey.

What did you miss most?

This is a hard one. I really missed the Dogs Trust family, both humans and doggies. I'm so looking forward to meeting all the incredible team in Dogs Trust, both old and new faces, and of course getting some doggie cuddles!

Minnie's Furry Tail Ending

A Sasha special report on a small dog with a big personality!

Sasha says: Once upon a time there was a little dog called Minnie, who did not like anybody. None of the carers here in the rehoming centre knew why Minnie was so grumpy, but grumpy she was. While lovely laid-back big dogs (like me!) were happily going about their business, Minnie would grump and humph and not want to be friends at all, happy in her little burrow of blankets with her toys all to herself. Plenty of people thought they would love to have a cute little dog like Minnie, but the team here knows well that small dogs can have big opinions about people, and Minnie certainly did. This is her story.

Minnie deciding that maybe she does love cuddles after all.



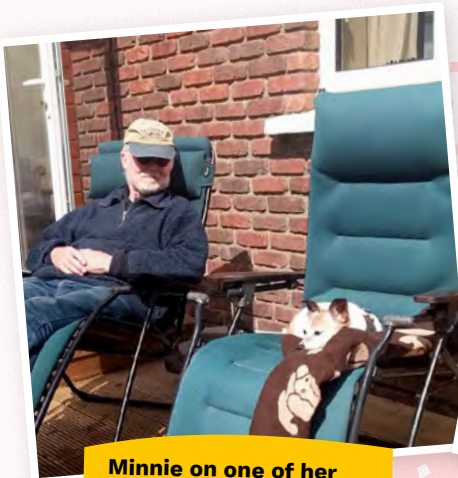
One day, a lovely family asked about Minnie, and they decided they liked what they heard. They visited her in the rehoming centre a few times. Then Minnie visited their house. The Rehoming team held their breath while Minnie went on several sleepovers – two in one week! – to see if this could be a match. It was a giant step for such a small girl, and it was possible that she would find it all too overwhelming. But the family were careful to give Minnie her space and let her find her own way into her new life.

Now this little dog, who never wanted company or cuddles, has found the lap where she belongs. She has a house full of comfy spots to sit in, and she loves her people so much, it is fantastic to see. She has even been out of the country on holiday!

Minnie's transformation from grumpy goblin to pampered princess was only possible because of the generosity and positivity of dog lovers like you. Your support for our work ensures that dogs of all shapes, sizes and personalities get the care and support they need at Dogs Trust while they wait for their proper people to find them.

Minnie came to Dogs Trust in 2017, when she was about four years old. We don't know why she was so guarded with people. She couldn't explain her feelings, but she could certainly display them. Her carers realised that Minnie would need quite a bit of support and help if she was ever going to be happy in a forever home.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, Minnie got everything she needed to keep her safe and happy while she was in our care. Minnie, aka Mousickles, aka the Queen of Comfort, had a variety of beds in her kennel, and could often be found hidden deep in her nest, not wanting to be disturbed.



Minnie on one of her home visits, trying out sun loungers for size.



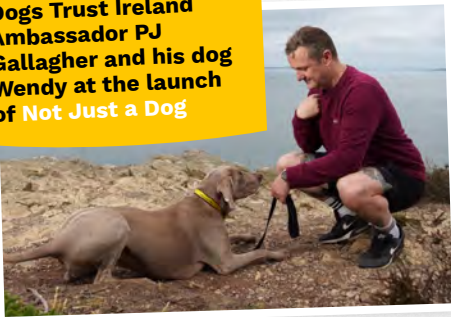
Not Just a Dog - Coping with the Hardest Time of All

As Ireland's biggest dog charity, we want to help dogs and their people through all stages of a dog's life, including the hardest one of all. Your support enabled us to conduct some valuable research into Irish dog lovers' feelings and experiences about death and grieving, and we found some interesting facts.

- Over half of people said that the grief of losing their dog was comparable to the grief of losing a family member.
- More than 58% of people said that it took them a year or more to start coming to terms with the loss of their dog.
- A huge 66% of people worry about their dog's passing.

These responses prompted us to start our **Not Just a Dog** campaign to highlight the devastating effect a dog's death can have on its people. As part of the campaign, we're appealing to employers to consider offering compassionate leave to employees when their beloved pet passes away.

Dogs Trust Ireland Ambassador PJ Gallagher and his dog Wendy at the launch of Not Just a Dog



We've also created a special section on our website where you can find out more about saying goodbye, grieving your pal and honouring the memory of your friendship.

Saying Goodbye

We know how hard it is when it seems as though your pal is coming near the end of their life. As well as caring for their physical needs, you may have to make some difficult decisions for them and help your human family to cope with the situation. It's so important to be gentle with yourself, your family and your dog during this time. As well as seeking veterinary advice, it can be really valuable to seek emotional support.

Our website has a useful list of things to consider if your dog is nearing the end of their life and you are making some big decisions. It includes:

- questions you can ask your vet to help you make an informed decision about euthanasia

- questions your vet might ask so that they can give the best advice
- suggestions for talking with other family members, including children, about what's happening
- ideas for meeting the needs of any other dogs in your household during this hard time
- ideas for getting the most out of the time you and your best pal have left together.

Grieving Your Loss

Your dog is an important part of your family and your world, so it is natural to be heartbroken when you lose them. You might experience some of the physical signs of grief, like a reduced appetite, disturbed sleep or difficulty concentrating, as well as the emotional signs, including sadness, guilt, anger or numbness. This is one of the reasons why we would like to see pet bereavement included as grounds for compassionate leave from work, and it's why you must take care of yourself in the way that's best for you.

On our website, we have some suggestions from Dr Sabrina Brennan, a psychologist and neuroscientist who is also a dog lover. Above all, Dr Brennan says, 'Your grief is perfectly normal and proportionate to the loss that you have experienced.' Remember to take care of yourself at this time.

Some examples of the specially engraved Memorial Tags already in place.



For more details of our Memorial Tags and Legacy Garden, as well as advice on dealing with the end of your dog's life, see www.DogsTrust.ie/NotJustADog, or scan the QR code here.



If you are grieving the loss of a dog, know that everyone at Dogs Trust Ireland understands, and we send you our very best wishes.

You receive a special certificate to keep for commemorating your beloved pet in this meaningful way.



Honouring Your Special Bond

For some people, a memorial service can help with focusing your grief and honouring your dog. Dr Brennan also suggests 'a lasting memorial or memento, whether that takes the form of a scrapbook or a necklace with a lock of hair is entirely up to you.' Paintings, photos or trees are popular suggestions.

Blaise poses in front of our specially commissioned dog sculpture, where Memorial Tags are hung.



It's Chriiiiis-mutts!

Ideas for Your Dog

Everyone deserves to be a little spoiled at Christmas, including our doggie pals. So why not try some of these musical favourites to make the season bright for them?

Christmas hits:

Silent night – it's important for your dog to have a space away from noise, excitement and extra people. Use blankets and their favourite toys to make a special quiet corner that's just for them, especially if you are having folks over late at night. If they're not used to being alone in the house, though, try not to be gone too long on your seasonal visits, or arrange for someone to sit with your pal so they don't get lonely.

... in a Pear Tree – partridge is out because of its rich meat and small bones, but pear is very much in as a treat. So are apples, blueberries or melon, as long as they are free of pips and tough rind. Other great winter treats are raw or steamed sweet potato, squash or carrot. Peanut butter is not super Christmassy, but as long as it's xylitol-free, it's a good treat for dogs.

... a turkey and some mistletoe – small amounts of turkey, chicken or salmon are fine, as long as there are no bones or skin, but mistletoe is toxic and needs to be kept well away from your dog.

Merry and bright – alcohol is really bad for dogs, so please make sure they are not merry, but bright is great. Get those walkies in during daylight, in case there are fireworks at night where you live, and to make it easier to see what's around you.

Christmas misses:

... roasting on an open fire – open flames and waggy tails don't mix, so please make sure any candles are well out of your dog's way, and use a fire guard.

O Christmas tree – if your pup likes to mark their territory, or they are super curious, take care of them around your tree and keep your presents somewhere out of harm's way. Pine needles and sap are also best kept well away from doggie paws and noses.

The holly and the ivy – both are toxic for dogs, so please keep them away from your pooch. This also goes for chocolate, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts and alcohol. If your dog eats or drinks any of these things, you should call your vet immediately.

Is That You, Santa Paws?

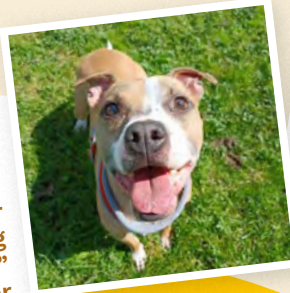
Of course, the dogs in our care all have a forever home as the number one thing on their Christmas wish list, but if you've ever seen our very own Christmas toy show, you know they like presents too!

We asked three of our very best boys and girls what they would love to see in their Christmas stocking this year, and this is what they said:

Janice

'I love a really solid toy that I can carry around with me for comfort. Anything that says "tough" or "rugged" or "hard-wearing" on the label will be great fun for me to get my chops round. Thanks, Santa Paws!'

Hard-wearing toys for carrying about are Janice's favourite thing.



Rex

Don't tell anyone, but Rex is a big softie who loves a snuggly toy.

'I love a good snuggle with my toys, so something soft would be great. Teddies or snugglies would be super, especially if I can de-stuff them safely and then someone can fix them back up for me. I would be a happy boy with some soft toys. Hope you can hear me, Santa Paws!'



Jack

'I'm Captain Fetch, so anything that helps me to do that is great. A bouncy ball, a squeaky ball, a whole collection of tennis balls, maybe! I would love it! Anything that a person can throw and I can bring back, that's my dream. You're the best, Santa Paws!'

If it squeaks or bounces, it's just the thing for Jack.



If you think you could help Santa Paws out with some of these special orders in time for our Christmas toy video, please send your doggie toy donations to Dogs Trust Ireland, Ashbourne Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 K003, and mark them for the special attention of Head Elf Kim Murphy.

Santa Paws is always so generous to the dogs in our care, and we are so grateful for all the toys, treat dispensers and special gifts our centre dogs receive every year. On behalf of all our very good boys and girls, thank you, Santa Paws!



Helping Hounds All Over Ireland

Your support has made regional rehoming a barking success!

Since 2020, your commitment to dogs has allowed us to expand beyond the rehoming centre in Dublin to help dogs all over Ireland find new homes locally. We thought you'd like to see some of the best dogs who have new lives all over Ireland, thanks to you.



Foster families are the absolute backbone of our regional rehoming programme – we simply couldn't do it without them, and we are so grateful for the time, patience and love they give to the dogs in their care.

If you think fostering might be for you, our team would love to hear from you! Please check out the details on our website at www.DogsTrust.ie/Fostering

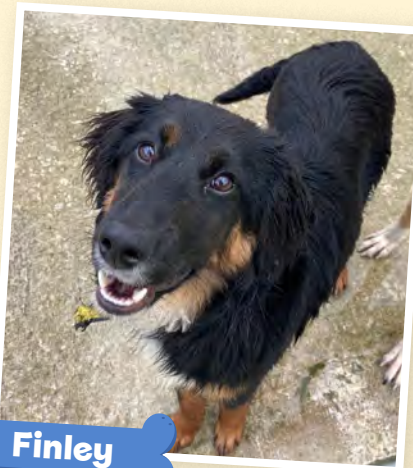


This super girl is happy in her home thanks to dog lovers just like you.

Dukey

This great girl came to us from the local pound and was placed with a local foster family. Her foster family loved her, but Dukey and the other dog in the home weren't sure about each other, and it was decided that maybe it would be best to find a new spot for her. The family were asked to hang on to her just a little longer, and during that time the two dogs decided they would be BFFs after all. Dukey is now a happy hound in that very home in Waterford, all thanks to that fab foster family, and to your support.

Gorgeous Collie boy Finley was found straying in Limerick and brought to the local pound. At only seven months old, he was nervous of people and not sure about the world at all. Fortunately, a wonderful retired couple with Collie experience took Finley in as a foster, helping him to learn about the world and get used to people in a loving environment. Finley got all the help he needed to make him suitable for rehoming. Now he's living it up in Munster, where he loves playing football with his family. Finley's story really shows how fostering can turn a young dog's life around.



Finley

Handsome Finley is a foster success story, now happy in his forever home.



Shay

Goofy Shay got all the love and care he needed until his family found him, all thanks to amazing supporters like you.

This goofy Lurcher boy entered the pound in Cork in 2021 and quickly found a kind foster home nearby. Despite his loving nature, it took over a year for Shay to make a match, but he was right where he needed to be all that time, being cared for, thanks to supporters like you.

Shay now lives in Cork with a great family that just loves him. They say, 'He is a good boy. We have started dog training that will help with the jumping up, lead training and recall. Overall, he is doing great!'

Education Station

With the help of schools, libraries, community groups and, of course, our super supporters, we're excited to be able to expand our education offerings into new age groups, with new workshops coming on stream soon! Thanks to everyone who took part in a workshop this year – we hope you got as much out of them as we did.

Why not put your learning to the test and see what you know about dog body language? This one is for adults as well as kids!

If you want to learn more about the ways that dogs communicate their moods and intentions, you might be interested in one of our new Dog Body Language workshops – our first workshops aimed at adults!

For more information, check out www.BeDogSmart.ie

What Does the Dog Say?

- 1 This dog is showing signs of...
- a. Being relaxed
 - b. Stress



- 2 This dog is telling you it is...
- a. Content
 - b. Nervous



- 3 This dog is showing signs of...
- a. Fear
 - b. Being relaxed



- 4 This dog is letting you know it's...
- a. Happy
 - b. Stressed



- 5 This dog...
- a. Wants belly rubs
 - b. Is nervous or submissive



Answers to the Dog Body Language quiz: 1. a. Being relaxed | 2. b. Nervous | 3. b. Being relaxed | 4. b. Stressed | 5. b. Is nervous or submissive

Meet Our New Team Member, Laura

Hi Laura! You're the newest member of our Education and Community team. Which counties will you be visiting for your workshops?

Hello! I'll be looking after lots of the South-East, so I'll be visiting Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow, Waterford and parts of Tipperary to do workshops with children and adults, in schools, libraries, summer camps and communities. So far, I am loving it!



Education and Community Officer Laura with young dog Pip

Do you have a dog? And, if so, will they be joining the Education and Community team and coming to schools with you?

I do! I have a Jack Russell Terrier called Charlie. Charlie is 18 (so 126 in dog years!) and he lives in my family home. He won't be coming to schools with me, in his old age he's become a bit nervous around children, so it wouldn't be fair. Charlie is a nosy little boy, he loves big hikes and potatoes. Yes, you read that correctly!

What are you most looking forward to as an Education and Community officer?

What I'm most looking forward to is visiting new people every single day, engaging with folks of all ages and having fun, while delivering important messages about dog welfare and safety, and boasting about the incredible work we do at Dogs Trust. I'm obsessed with dogs, and I think this really comes across in my workshops.

If you would like to book a free workshop, visit www.LearnWithDogsTrust.ie

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The Twelve Dogs of Christmas



The lovable underdogs pictured here all need a particular kind of adult only home, where they can get the ongoing training, love and care they need to really relax into the kind of life all dogs deserve. Some of them simply don't have much experience of home life, and some of them need a little something extra to make them feel

safe. If you think you'd be a match for one of our extra-special underdogs, we really would love to hear from you. Even if you can't adopt or foster one of these dogs, your ongoing support will help hundreds of waggy tails get the second chance they deserve each year. You're so paw-some for being there for dogs!

Scan here to read more about these lovely dogs

