

A word from our CEO

The final quarter of the year here at Dogs for Autism has been full of change, growth and adventure. Thanks to the Kennel Club, we had a wonderful few days at Discover Dogs in London in October, which has really whet our appetites for Crufts in March – we are very excited to be exhibiting there in 2023 for the first time!

You may have seen or heard the BBC coverage of Children in Need in November? We were very proud to be widely featured in the 2022 CIN appeal. Thanks indeed and much praise must go to Storm, Isabella and her family who represented the charity so well, but of course the funding from Children in Need benefits the training of many more dogs – find out more about these in the features below.

Hot off the press... I am delighted to share our big news with you. As we have grown and our dog numbers have increased in the charity, we have taken the decision to centralise all our dog training and administration. This will help us to improve everything we do, and importantly will streamline the way we spend the funding that our supporters provide us with. We have secured premises in Alton, Hampshire and our new training centre and offices will be opening around Easter time. How exciting! Watch this space for more information about this in our next newsletter.

The final paragraph from me this year must be saved to say what an honour and exciting adventure it has been to be one of the named charities in this year's Jingle Jam – a massive online fundraising campaign run by The Yogscast. To say it has all made us feel rather 'Christmassy' in the Dogs for Autism office is an understatement! Read more [here](#)

The Golden Retriever Jingle Jam puppy 'JJ' (seen above getting ready to choose his Christmas present) has kept us all entertained during the campaign, and we now wish him well as he goes to his puppy walker this week and begins Puppy School. We look forward to seeing him graduate and enter into Big Dog School where he will learn about the jolly serious business of becoming an assistance dog, this time next year.

All that remains for me to say is that I hope you have a peaceful Christmas full of warmth and joy. We will see you in 2023.

Funding Highlights

Jingle Jam 2022



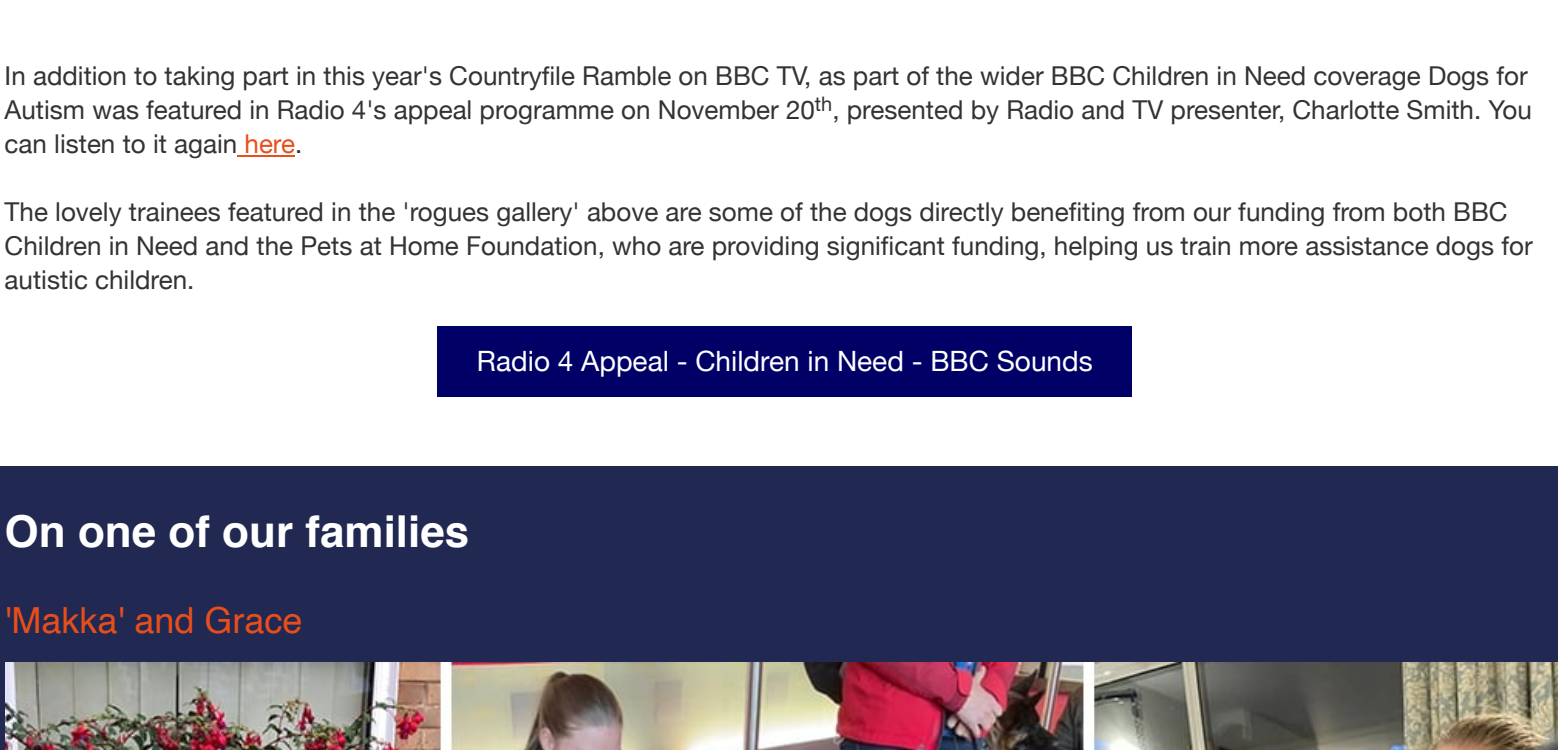
In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we had something very exciting planned for December! We can now share with you that this year we were chosen as one of twelve charities to be supported by the Jingle Jam, the world's biggest charity gaming event! This took place in the first two weeks of December and gamers all over the world made a contribution in exchange for a massive bundle of games, donated by generous game developers.

Our very own puppy, a golden retriever called JJ, made a surprise visit to the studio and stole some hearts! Re-live the moment along with eighteen thousand others when Simon, Co-founder of Yogscast, met JJ for the very first time [here](#).

We have had an incredible journey over the last 2 weeks, we have learnt how to Twitch, Stream and engage with lots of online gamers – a world new to most of our team! We have made great friends and partners in the online gaming world and worked with wonderful people who have helped us raise an incredible amount of funds for the charity.

Thanks go to the team at Yogscast and the Jingle Jam charity, all of our community streamers - especially Spooky Glitch who has at times been our tech support - and all of the lovely gamers and their friends who have donated.

Royal Support for Dogs for Autism



We are very proud to have been funded by two Royal trusts this year; The Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund contributed to our core funding, whilst at a meeting of The Prince Philip Trust, chaired by HRH The Earl of Wessex, we were awarded a generous donation towards an assistance dog for an autistic adult.

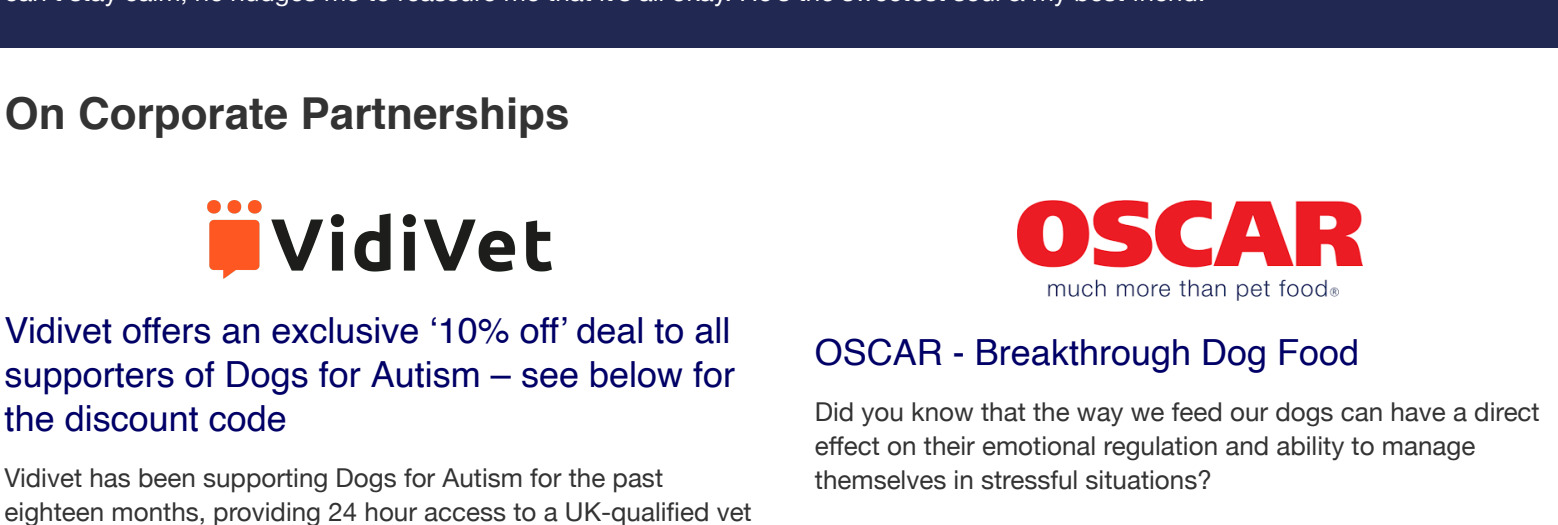
These are both particularly difficult areas to fund; there are many more opportunities to apply for grants for our work with children than with adults, and fundraising for core costs is a continuing challenge for every charity.

We were also privileged to be featured in The Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund (PWCF) annual Trustees' Report this year as a beneficiary of the PWCF small grants programme!

Spotlight...

In the Media

Children in Need Appeal on Radio 4



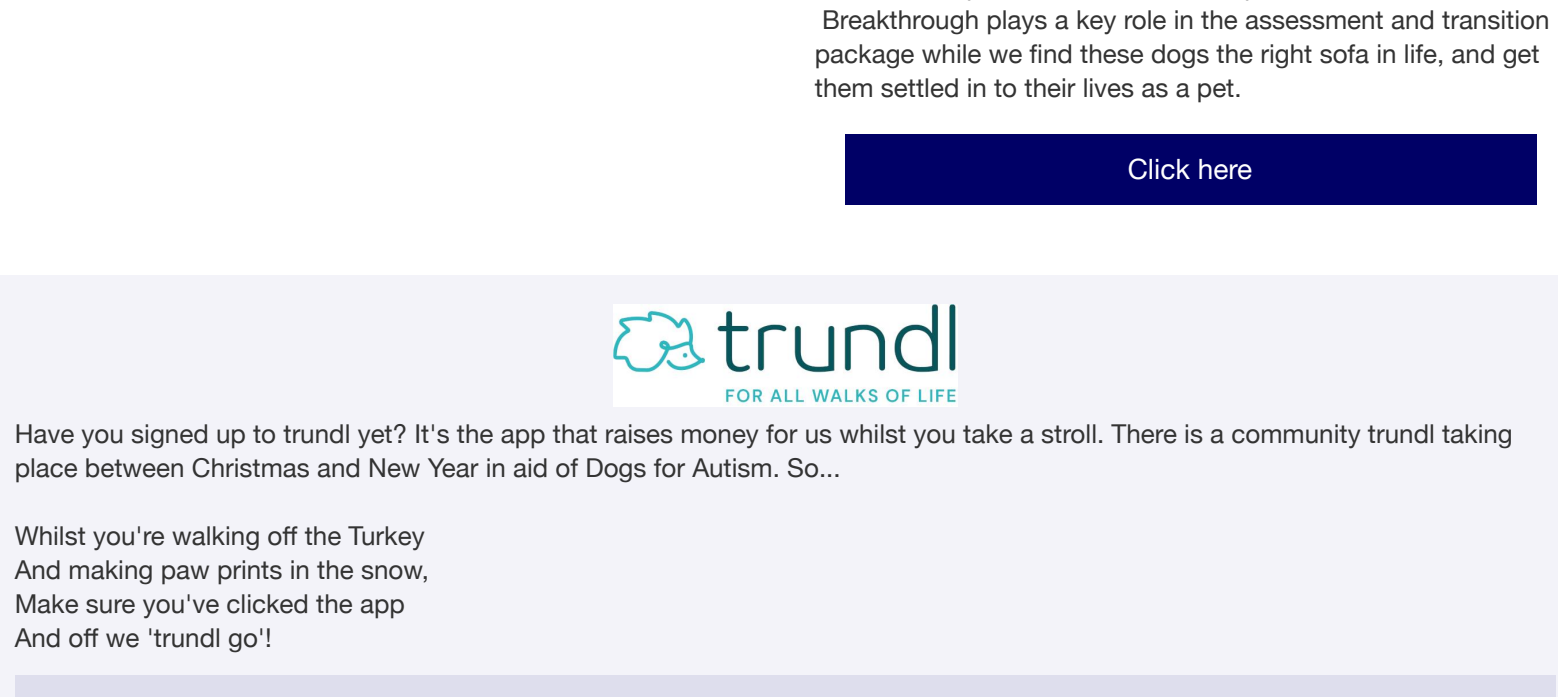
In addition to taking part in this year's Countryfile Ramble on BBC TV, as part of the wider BBC Children in Need coverage Dogs for Autism was featured in Radio 4's appeal programme on November 20th, presented by Radio and TV presenter, Charlotte Smith. You can listen to it again [here](#).

The lovely trainees featured in the 'rogues gallery' above are some of the dogs directly benefiting from our funding from both BBC Children in Need and the Pets at Home Foundation, who are providing significant funding, helping us train more assistance dogs for autistic children.

Radio 4 Appeal - Children in Need - BBC Sounds

On one of our families

'Makka' and Grace



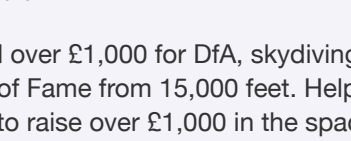
When Makka arrived in my life in the summer of 2020 I needed a door-to-door taxi service (paid for by the local authority) to get to & from college, and could not go out anywhere without my Mum. 18 months into our partnership I began to independently travel home from college & over the next 12 months started to travel to college as well, most days using two buses to college and two buses home. There is no way I could've done this without the support of my dog – we have come so far in two and a half years!

I still struggle on the odd days when I have to go to college without him, but now am a really confident traveller with him. He comes shopping with me, I can now independently travel to the osteopath/doctors. I can run errands & go to the shops all on our own!

I don't like people in my space or touching me, Makka will block behind me to stop people coming too close or will 'orbit' circle round me to keep people away, he will give me deep pressure therapy when I am getting stressed to help me regulate my emotions. He will interrupt self-injurious behaviour such as picking or nail biting and if I am overwhelmed at college he will guide me to a named member of staff or a place on campus.

Makka will alert me to my anxiety & high heart rate & help me calm down, he is my constant, my soul mate, my best friend. He's a bit of a doughnut and can be really crazy when free running, but when working he is so calm and chilled and helps me to stay calm, if I can't stay calm, he nudges me to reassure me that it's all okay. He's the sweetest soul & my best friend.

On Corporate Partnerships



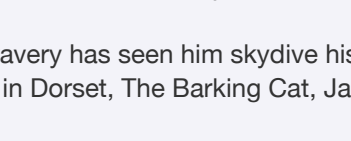
Vidivet offers an exclusive '10% off' deal to all supporters of Dogs for Autism – see below for the discount code

Vidivet has been supporting Dogs for Autism for the past eighteen months, providing 24 hour access to a UK-qualified vet online for all our dogs, free of charge! Our partners, puppy walkers and fosterers can access this service via video, text or phone, 365 days a year. This is an invaluable service alongside all our dogs' local veterinary care, allowing our autistic partners to access vet advice at any time, helping to relieve anxiety outside of veterinary practice hours when they are worried about their dog, or to provide emergency triage advice when needed. A number of our autistic partners are unable to speak on the phone or video call, particularly when dealing with a stressful situation, so the possibility of being able to access this service by text is significantly beneficial for our organisation.

Vidivet is available to all pet owners; use code **DOGS10** when you sign up and receive a discount, while supporting their work with Dogs for Autism.

Visit Vidivet to find out more!

Click here



much more than pet food.

OSCAR - Breakthrough Dog Food

Did you know that the way we feed our dogs can have a direct effect on their emotional regulation and ability to manage themselves in stressful situations?

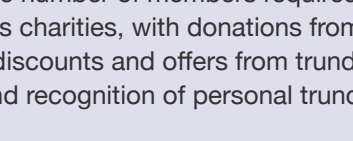
Many dogs are happy go lucky, and bumble their way through life without a care in the world, but just like people, dogs have a whole range of personality types and for some dogs life can be emotionally hard going – sometimes long-term or sometimes at specific times in their life.

In addition to their extensive pet dog range, OSCAR also supply Breakthrough dog food, a kibble based food formulated from the famous Val's Diet, developed by the founder of Support Dogs, Dr Val Strog. In brief, fed appropriately this food can directly impact the 'reward cascade' in the brain chemistry of your dog, helping it to feel more calm, cope, focus and learn when anxious or stressed. It is truly incredible!

One of the hardest things for assistance dogs is the necessity for them to change homes two or three times during their training and placement, and we often use Breakthrough food during the weeks leading up to and following their transition into a new environment. We have seen a significant improvement in our dogs' ability to settle quickly and happily into their new homes when we have fed Breakthrough.

As happens with all assistance dog charities there are times when we need to withdraw dogs from the program if they have had a bad experience or have developed fearful behaviours. Breakthrough finds a key role in the assessment and transition package while we play these dogs the right sofa in life, and get them settled in to their lives as a pet.

Click here



Have you signed up to trundl yet? It's the app that raises money for us whilst you take a stroll. There is a community trundl taking place between Christmas and New Year in aid of Dogs for Autism. So...

Whilst you're walking off the Turkey
And making paw prints in the snow,
Make sure you've clicked the app
And off we 'trundl' go!

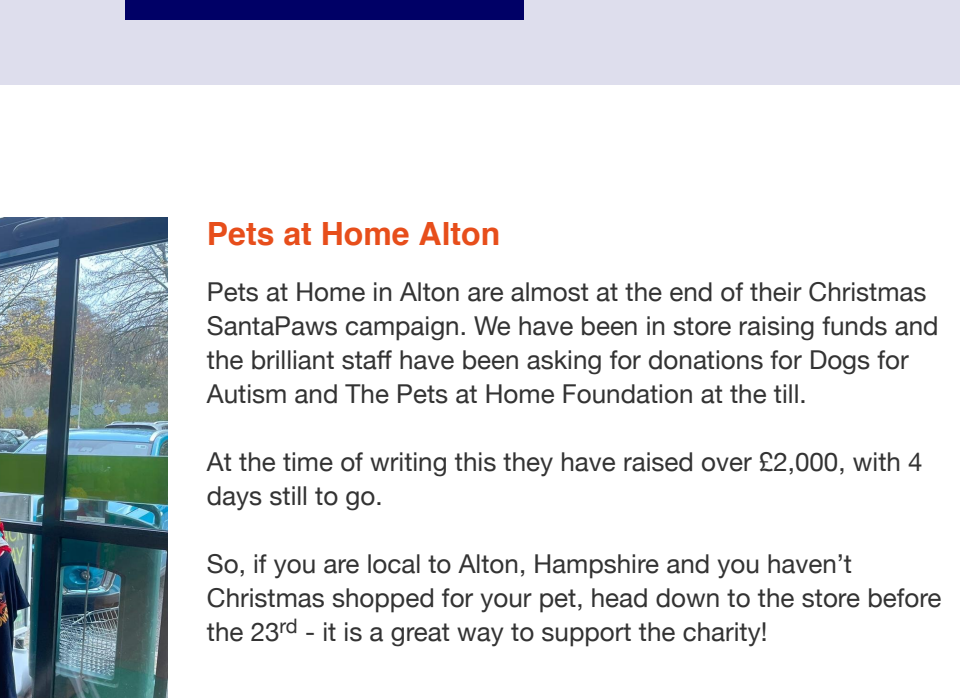
If you are like us and love taking a break from your desk with a brisk dog-walk each day, trundl are offering special rates for other business users. With a business 'bundl' from trundl, companies can buy trundl memberships for their staff and help them to get healthier, happier, and personally rewarded by walking to support important charity causes - all without having to raise any funds themselves.

As with individual memberships, the business membership is simple to set up with no added complicated pricing plans. trundl make it straightforward to manage and pay for the number of members required, at only £3.99 per person per month. A minimum of 10% of revenue is donated to trundl's charities, with donations from generous brand partners increasing the overall funds raised. In return, members can also enjoy discounts and offers from trundl's brand partners through the app and be rewarded for their efforts with cheerful badges and recognition of personal trundling milestones.

Trundl on every walk and know that you're raising funds for a very good 'paws'!

Campaigns and Fundraising

100 Heroes



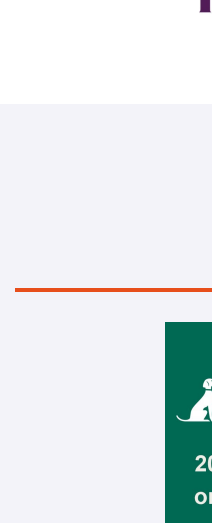
It has been a busy year for our 100 Hero fundraisers and the latest person to achieve this accolade is 16 year old Jacob Bradley.

Jacob has raised over £1,000 for DfA, skydiving in a sponsored jump! His incredible bravery has seen him skydive his way into our 100 Heroes Hall of Fame from 15,000 feet. Helped by donations made at his local pub in Dorset, The Barking Cat, Jacob and his family managed to raise over £1,000 in the space of a few months.

Congratulations Jacob!

Throughout the year we have had Heroes walking on plane wings, raising funds through a swear jar (now that's a lot of swearing!), fishing, iron man events, marathon running and climbing.

Thank you to all of the 100 Heroes for this year's support.



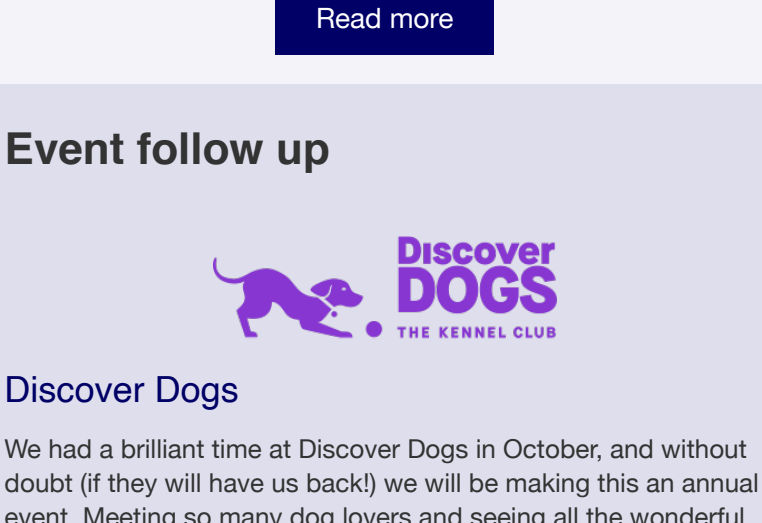
If you have what it takes to become one of our heroes and raise £1,000 or more for us (either as an individual or in a group) please wish to touch with Lucinda at info@dogsforautism.org.uk.

We will help you with ideas, offer social media support, provide a fund-raising pack including fliers, sponsorship forms and logos to use etc.

Just think – that 2023 medal could be yours...!

Start your fundraiser now

Fundraising

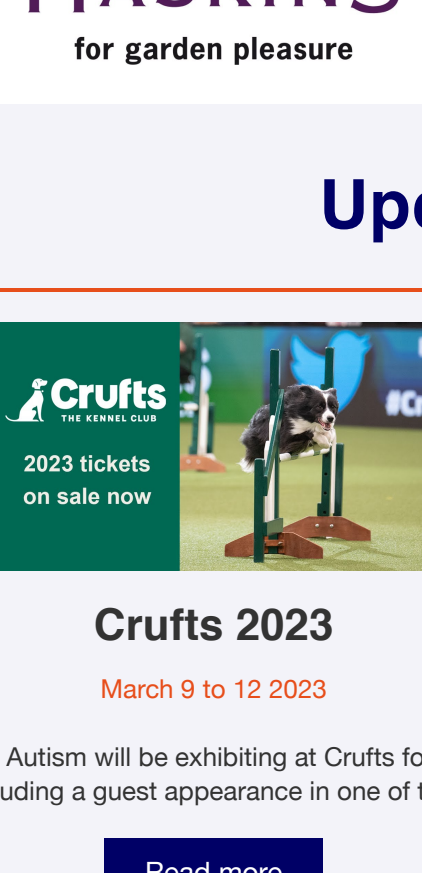


Pets at Home Alton

Pets at Home in Alton are almost at the end of their Christmas SantaPaws campaign. We have been in store raising funds and the brilliant staff have been asking for donations for Dogs for Autism and The Pets at Home Foundation at the till.

At the time of writing this they have raised over £2,000, with 4 days still to go.

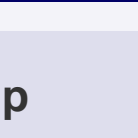
So, if you are local to Alton, Hampshire and you haven't Christmas shopped for your pet, head down to the store before the 23rd - it is a great way to support the charity!



Clothing Banks

We are delighted to have our first Clothing Textile Recycling Unit raising money for the charity! Thank you to Bolton on Dearn Ex Service Man club in Rotherham for giving it a home. If you know any businesses or organisations who have space in a car park for a clothing textile recycling unit please get in touch with Lucinda at info@dogsforautism.org.uk

Clothing banks raise on average £1,000 a year. We do all the work – all you need to do is provide a space! A brilliant way to raise funds for us.



HASKINS

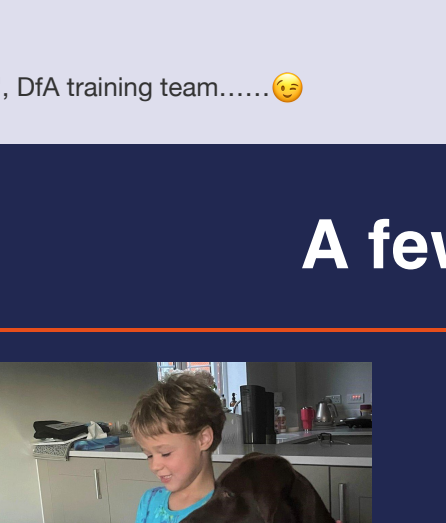
for garden pleasure

Haskins - Forest Lodge - Farnham

We are pleased to announce that Haskins - Forest Lodge near Farnham, Surrey are making Dogs for Autism their charity of 2023 and will be fundraising for us throughout the year.

Watch this space for more updates.

Upcoming Events

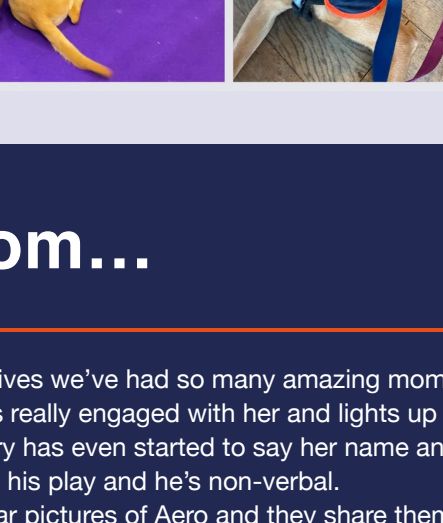


Crufts 2023

March 9 to 12 2023

Dogs for Autism will be exhibiting at Crufts for the first time including a guest appearance in one of the rings.

Read more



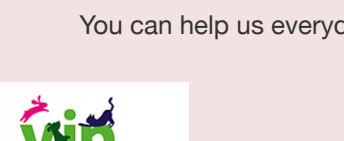
Dogstival 2023

June 3 & 4 2023

"The coolest dog show in town!"
Come and see us in the New Forest

Read more

Event follow up

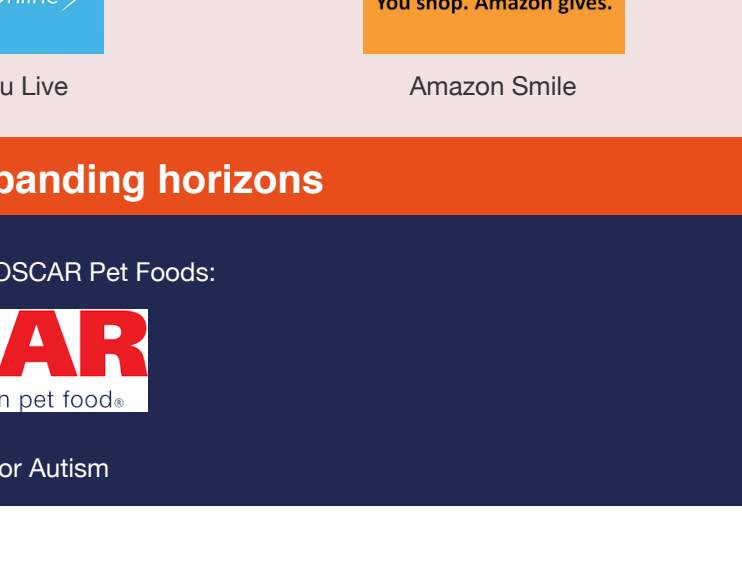


Discover Dogs

We had a brilliant time at Discover Dogs in October, and without doubt (if they will have us back!) we will be making this an annual event. Meeting so many dog lovers and seeing all the wonderful breeds represented was a treat.

Our DfA stand was buzzing the entire week with people wanting to find out more about our work, and our dogs had so much fun meeting the public and making new canine friends. If you are thinking of getting a dog and would like to meet just about every breed of dog available to man, then Discover Dogs is a must. You will also be royally entertained with Police Dog displays, incredible agility competitions, Flyball, the legendary Southern Golden Retriever Display team and who knows... if we work hard we might just end up in the ring ourselves putting on a display!

'No pressure', DfA training team.....😄



A few words from...

Since having Aero in our lives we've had so many amazing moments with Harry and Aero. Harry has really engaged with her and lights up when she comes round to visit. Harry has even started to say her name and prior to this Harry was very isolated in his play and he's non-verbal. Harry's school have regular pictures of Aero and they share them with him. "We had a lovely moment earlier where Harry repeated 'Aero dog' so we quickly got a picture up and he smiled at Aero as only a proud father could do."

Also as a family Aero brings us all so much happiness; she's a beautiful girl and helps us all interact together. We are honestly so grateful for the opportunity to have her and knowing what a difference she will make to our life."

Harry's Mum

Don't forget...

You can help us everyday when you select us and use any of these household names

Pets at Home VIP Lifeline

Give as you Live

Amazon Smile

Enriching lives - Expanding horizons

Proudly sponsored by OSCAR Pet Foods:

much more than pet food.

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