

ISSUE 1 • 12 September 2022



# A warm welcome...

### ...and a quick hello from me!

We have had a very busy and exciting year at Dogs for Autism and we are so pleased to have this interactive platform which allows you to quickly and easily access our latest news.

There are so many strands to running an assistance dog charity and over the coming year we are looking forward to sharing all the different activities that go on behind the scenes, to make sure that our adorable and amazing puppies turn into life-changing working dogs.

Like most charities, we rely completely on philanthropy to survive, and naturally much of our focus away from the dog training is about raising those funds to make our work possible.

What we don't often talk about is how diligent we are in spending the money that you give us, with great care and respect for every hard-earned pound that comes our way. When you give to a charity like ours, every penny is given an important function. It is used to ensure that our dogs are superbly trained, deeply loved and looked after and our autistic partners are well supported throughout their journey with us.

In everything we do, from purchases to the way we use our man hours, we ask ourselves if this is the best use of your donated funds. It is important to us that you feel confident when you donate, that your money is carefully spent.

I hope you really enjoy reading our newsletter. Why not take a few minutes, grab a coffee and enjoy!

Mon

# **Funding Highlights**

## **Musical Theatre Classics**

This incredible event kickstarted 2022 and saw a 500 strong audience captivated by stars from the West End, Members of the Cody Theatre and the Betty Laine Theatre School, performing hits from the Musicals under the baton of our Ambassador Stephen Brooker.

Not only did the evening bring the charity over £5,000 but it was a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and funders who have continued to support us including a considerable donation from The Harris Family Trust.

Thank you to everybody who donated as a result of this event - a truly spectacular evening to spring us out of lockdown.

## Pets at Home & Children in Need

We have been lucky enough to receive funding from the Pets at Home Foundation and Children in Need to pay for a year of training and bonding sessions for eight new puppies each year for three years.

#### Meet Cohorts A and B!

Our Labradors, Ash, Aero, Annie and Archie are a year into their training, and we are starting to see some lovely relationships developing with their autistic partners.

Golden Retrievers, Bonsai, Bumble and Buzzy are joined by Casper, a cavalier cross, to make up cohort B – spot the deliberate mistake! We love seeing their personalities develop and hope all four will go on to change lives for their future partners.





# Spotlight...

## **On Television**

**BBC Countryfile** 



DfA partner Isabella and her assistance dog Storm appeared in the first of <u>BBC Countryfile's Ramble Appeal Films</u> broadcast as part of their anniversary show to mark 100 Years of the BBC. Isabella filmed with the cast and crew of the show earlier this Summer, her film being the first of Countryfile's Ramble appeal films, on behalf of <u>BBC Children in Need.</u>

Isabella talked about how her life has been transformed thanks to her specially-trained assistance dog Storm and how he has been a help for both her and her family since Storm moved in.

Read more

## On one of our families

### 'I used to be famous'



Dogs for Autism are delighted to share with you all that **Leo Long**, one of our autistic partners and an incredible young actor will be making his screen debut in the soon to be released Netflix film, 'I used to be Famous'.

Leo, who plays Stevie in the role, is an up-and-coming young actor, already known for his theatre work and commitments with the National Open Youth Orchestra, who stars alongside **Ed Skrein** as one of the two main characters in the film by director Eddie Sternburg.

We can't wait to have a movie night at DfA and watch Leo in the premier of this film, due for release on September 16th! Congratulations to Leo and the cast of the show, which highlights the incredible talents people with autism have.

Well done Leo, to us you've always been a super-star!

Read more

## **On Corporate Partnerships**



### trundl

Dogs for Autism are proud of our corporate partnerships and none more so than our new partnership with trundl.



### **Oscar Pet Foods**

Oscar Pet Foods continue to provide us with an outstanding level of sponsorship and provide nutrition and advice for all our trainee dogs free of charge, and where our autistic partners choose to continue that relationship they offer a discounted price and look after those dogs throughout their working life.

trundl, the mobile walking app that 'gives as you go' is the only walking app which repurposes their member's walks by raising funds for charities.

We know how sometimes a dog walk can seem like a chore, but when combined with a quick flick on the trundl app, suddenly the idea of an afternoon stroll with our four-legged friends somehow seems more meaningful.

As the Autumn leaves fall and our dogs set off on another afternoon walk, download the trundl app and help us beat the 'dog days'!



We would not be where we are today without their unstinting support.

Oscar Pet Foods provide a door-to-door service supplying all your pet food needs along with professional nutritional advice.

If you would like to find your local Oscar supplier, please click below.

Click here

# **Campaigns and Fundraising**

**100 Heroes** 



We are on a mission to fill our 100 Heroes Hall of Fame with our fantastic fundraisers who have raised £1000+ in 2022 for Dogs for Autism.

Our most recent hero is **Mike Warne** who completed a gruelling Ironman event in Cork raising over a £1065. Michael has recently completed the Ironman Challenge in Cork this Summer. His combined fundraising for DfA now stands at over £1500! The Ironman Challenge is notoriously gruelling, and this race proved to be no exception. Having completed the race Mike was admitted to the local hospital where he spent a few days rehydrating. Mike is officially now one of our 100 Heroes, as he has raised over £1000 for DfA! Congratulations to Mike for all his hard work and for putting up with the hospital food for us!

Earlier in the year **Dave McEvoy** one of our supporters completed a 25,000 steps a day challenge and raised an amazing £1,950.

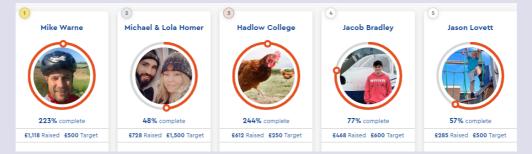
**Michael Homer** is halfway through his fundraising to be our next 100 Hero! Michael has been competing in professional level fishing events across the UK and Europe on behalf of DfA. We will hear more of Michael's 'fishy' news in our next newsletter!

If you would like to become one of our heroes and fundraise either as an individual or a group or know someone who may be interested, please get in touch with Lucinda for more information <u>lucinda.seward@dogsforautism.org.uk</u>

Read more

## Fundraising

Our fundraisers need your 'paws'ativity...



#### **Jason Lovett**

Jason is running seven half marathons in seven days for DfA. This is an amazing challenge. Thank you to Jason and his supporters for cheering him along the way. We wish him well and can't wait to hear about each individual race!

Donate here

### **Anais Farges**

Ana is going to run the Great Scottish Run in and around Glasgow on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. With over 25,000 other runners and a half marathon length course, this is Scotland's longest road race each year. Help Ana and visit her fundraising page!

Donate here

### **Tifany Rodas**

Tifany is 16 and an amazing musician. Every day Tifany plays and records Reels for DfA on Instagram. You can view her incredible talent <u>here!</u> Help Tifany reach her target and read all about her musical story!

#### **Jacob Bradley**

Jacob is currently one of our youngest supporters but is taking on the highest and most exhilarating challenge for us to date! Jacob is planning to Skydive for DfA over the Salisbury Plains in October. One day Jacob hopes to be a

pilot, so this jump will certainly give him a bird's eye view from 15,000 feet! Help Jacob raise £600 for DfA!

Donate here

## **Upcoming Events**



**Discover Dogs** 

15th - 16th October

Dogs for Autism are proud to announce that we will be exhibiting for the first time at Discover Dogs 2022, London's biggest dog event run by The Kennel Club, which will take place at London's ExCeL on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022. As the first charity exclusively providing Autism Assistance dogs to autistic people of any age, anywhere in the UK, Dogs for Autism are looking forward to promoting the work we do, building relationships and networking at this prestigious event. Do come and say hello to us on our stall!

#### Read more



## **Top Secret Event**

#### December

Something incredibly exciting is coming up at the beginning of December but we can't say anything yet so watch this space....

We will let you know as soon as we are able to!



# A few words from...

Coco came into our lives, full-time, in January 2022. The change in Peter since that point has been amazing!

He will now engage in conversation with strangers to talk about Coco and even comes into a shop with me as he has Coco to keep him grounded. Coco works to comfort Peter when he is anxious or upset, she is trained to recognise the signs of mounting anxiety demonstrated at his brother's Confirmation, where she jumped on to Peters lap on cue when he found the situation overwhelming.

Coco is currently working on reminding Peter what he needs to bring with him to school, as his memory is also a problem. She will also pick items up from the floor (pens etc) if dropped.

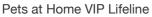
As Peter's parents we cannot express our gratitude enough to DFA. Coco is an amazing and intelligent dog who has made a massive difference to Peter's life.

**Peter's Parents** 

# Don't forget...

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







Give as you Live

amazonsmile You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Smile

### **Enriching lives - Expanding horizons**

