

College Garth Kennels

Spring Newsletter 2014

Kennels open from 9am to 5pm Monday - Friday
9am to 4pm Saturday 9am to 1pm Sunday

01509 842327 or 07803562306

www.collegegarthkennels.co.uk



College Garth Kennels, Derby
Road, Hathern, LE12 5LD



A WARM WELCOME

To the Spring 2014 edition of College Garth Kennels Newsletter.

We really want to hear your feedback on the content and to understand what you would like to see in future editions.

Have you adopted a College Garth dog?

We'd love to hear from you with your 'happy doggie' stories and see your photos.

To submit your story for inclusion in our Summer Newsletter please email us by June 7th 2014 at newsletter@collegegarthkennels.co.uk.

DUBLIN THE BLOOD DONOR

Dublin, a beautiful black lab adopted by Cheryl Heath from College Garth in 2007 is quite simply a life-saver.

Having donated blood ten times means Dublin could have saved the lives of no less than forty dogs!

His trips to the Pet Blood Bank UK sessions were always a highlight for him as he'd get a free meal, a goody bag full of treats and toys and most important of all the fuss and cuddles of the excellent staff there.

Dublin is now almost 11 years old and has retired from his Blood donation adventures. Cheryl comments 'I'm so proud of Dublin. I rescued him and he in turn has rescued many other dogs with his blood donations'.

Do take a look at <http://www.petbloodbankuk.org> to see if your pet meets the criteria to become a blood donor, and they too could become a hero like Dublin.



FRIENDS OF COLLEGE GARTH

College Garth Rescue Kennels have responsibility for the care and re-homing of stray dogs from many councils around Leicestershire.

In recent months the kennels have undergone significant refurbishment and implemented improved systems. The management have also founded a new support and fundraising group comprised of staff and volunteers (*Friends of College Garth*).

Closely connected with the kennels, *Friends of College Garth's* role is mainly to develop and organise activities and events to raise funds to help care for the stray dogs. Some examples of the work we do include kennel maintenance, liaising with other rescues, transporting dogs to adopted homes or other rescues, walking dogs, funding veterinary expenses or more general items like coats, collars, treats and writing, editing and distributing this newsletter!

Come along to the events we are hosting over the year - we would love to meet you and need and appreciate your support.

Are you willing to put up posters for us? We'd be so grateful. Please email us at newsletter@collegegarthkennels.co.uk and tell us which area you are able to cover.

Spare time and skill to give? Do contact the kennel staff by calling in to the kennels or ringing on the phone number above to find out how you can help. Thank you.

MANAGERS MESSAGE

From January 1st to March 31st 153 dogs left our kennels - most to go to new loving homes and some to be transferred to other dog rescues. We are deeply grateful to every one of you for giving our dogs the chance of a happy life.

Those who've sponsored a kennel, we thank-you for your support and will be reporting more about this initiative in the Summer Newsletter.

STUPENDOUS STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIERS (THE STAFFIE OR SBT)

Did you know the Kennel Club describe this breed as "Extremely reliable, highly intelligent and affectionate, especially with children."



Despite this the biggest problem faced in rescue at present, is what has come to be known as The Staffie Epidemic.

College Garth Kennels are not solely a Staffie rescue, but as a kennels responsible for strays and abandoned dogs they don't get a say in what type of dog they take in. Unfortunately a high proportion of stray dogs in Leicestershire are Staffordshire Bull Terriers and Stafford X's.

Due to popular demand, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier has been over-bred by people simply looking to make 'a quick quid'. Unscrupulous backstreet breeders, often with little understanding of the breed, have bred the Stafford and sold the cute puppies, to unsuitable homes, with little concern for the dog's future! SBTs have become a fashion accessory of the youth. They are popular because of their tremendous characters. Sadly many of these young homes are unstable and uncertain. Many youths have found themselves unable to meet the demands and responsibilities of this energetic dog and sadly a high number of SBTs become social discards before their 1st birthday. Council dog pounds are full of them and rescues are brimming with them.

Sadly very few Staffies and Staffie X's are given the chance to see their 2nd birthday as homes just can't be found for them all.

The result of years of over breeding has left the rescue world with literally an epidemic of unwanted Staffies. Staffies have mainly been exploited, sold as puppies for cash, and bought as status symbols offering a macho image. This has in turn given the Staffie a 'bad reputation' as being an untrustworthy dog, making them a difficult breed for rescues to rehome. **Nothing could be further from the truth!** Please do **seriously consider** a Stafford when looking for a rescue **dog**; these **affectionate** dogs desperately need our help.

HELPING HATHERN DOGS

Helping Hathern Dogs is a dedicated fundraising group run by Margaret Bunker and Carole Isaac Established in April 2013, they support the funding of veterinary treatment for stray dogs that the council have signed over to College Garth rescue kennel's care. The group has also purchased worming tablets, parvo vaccinations and kennel cough tablets for the College Garth canine residents. Whilst independent of the kennels, all funds are specifically raised for the homeless dogs at College Garth.

The kennels staff seek help from Helping Hathern Dogs with medical funding for a particular dog (s) and as long as they have enough to cover the dog's expenses, Margaret and Carole who have been involved with College Garth Kennels for over 10 years, are always delighted to oblige.

These generous and committed ladies love to work in partnership with the kennels and since founding Helping Hathern Dogs, they have spent an amazing £3000.00 of the funds they have raised to assist with vet bills and medication thanks to their loyal supporters. If you wish to get involved with Helping Hathern Dogs, please feel free to email Margaret - bunker380@btinternet.com

FACEBOOK

We need more 'likes'! Please encourage your friends to do two things - like our Facebook page and SHARE every dog we post, that would make such a huge difference in helping us find our dogs a secure future in new homes, thank you.

FROM KENNEL TO STAGE

An article from local resident Alan Clark in the Long Whatton News tells a wonderful tale about a College Garth Kennels dog.

A volunteer walker, Alan was persuaded to take 'just one more dog' before he finished for the day. Dasher (named after Santa's reindeer as he was found on Boxing Day) was the charge on the end of the lead handed to Alan and he duly walked this rather sad moth-eaten looking lurcher.

Who could know this moment would be the start of a new life for Dasher.

Alan fell into a new routine walking this placid and gentle natured boy regularly. His relationship with Dasher slowly grew into something very special until eventually Alan took this lucky lurcher boy home, first fostering, then adopting him as a new member of his family.

The story doesn't end there though. Dasher has since become something of a Long Whatton celebrity, featuring as a 'doggy actor' portraying Seth's racing dog in a musical, 'The Hired Man' by Greasepaint Productions at Loughborough Town Hall. What a talented boy! Now two years after his adoption, Dasher remains a deeply loved member of the Clark family. Dasher the dashing actor; maybe we should get his paw print as an autograph!

If anyone reading this knows Alan or Dasher, we'd really love to have a photo of Dasher for our next newsletter. Please email one in to us at newsletter@collegegarthkennels.co.uk.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all supporters of College Garth Kennels.

A particular thank you goes to Pets At Home and customers for their continuous and very generous donations of food.

Also our gratitude to Morrisons at Coalville for all the generous dog food donations.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for our Christmas Raffle 2013 including Scotneys Hair Design, The Pied Bull, Dillips, Webster's Butchers, Hathern Nurseries, Active Aims Ltd.

Thanks to local vets Meadow Lane Veterinary Centre, Loughborough and Canine Sports Limited, Shepshed.

Your generous PayPal & cash donations are so appreciated

To those with collecting tins — our sincere thanks.

Amazon Wish List gifts make such a difference to the dogs.

Massive thanks to volunteer dog walkers, fundraisers and supporters of Friends of College Garth events.

Jayne Varley for providing us with scrumptious cakes and soup at our fundraising events.

Thank you to each and every rescue who have kindly provided rescue space for College Garth dogs.

Thank you to those of you who have donated bedding.
Please note we are no longer able to take general bedding as the kennels now exclusively use Vet bed.

CONGRATULATIONS to staff member Stacey and partner Michael on the early arrival of baby Neo on 23rd March 2014.



BEST FOOT FORWARD!

Volunteer dog walkers are vital and always very welcome at the kennels. Just turn up Monday to Saturday at any time between 11am and 3pm and Sunday any time between 11am and 1pm. Your help is invaluable whether you have half an hour or 3 hours to spare. Thank you

Please bring photo ID on your first visit. Thank you.



UNWANTED ITEMS

We need you to donate your unwanted items!

We are always on the lookout for new items (unwanted gifts or nearly new unwanted saleable goods) for our tombola's and raffles.

At certain times of the year we will put out a call for bric-a-brac items for our market stalls.

Flattened cardboard can be taken for recycling to Hathern Nurseries, Whatton Road, Hathern LE12 5LX (across the road from the kennels).

Funds raised will go towards looking after the dogs during their stay at the kennels.

If you have anything to donate, please email newsletter@collegegarthkennels.co.uk or call at the kennels with your items to hand them in, thank-you.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please come along and bring your family and friends to visit our stall at the following fundraising events. Wherever the venue is appropriate and allows canines, we love to meet your dogs too.

.Sponsored Dog Walk, College Garth Kennels, Hathern, Sunday, 11th May 2014.

Rummage Sale, Woodhouse Eaves, Village Hall, 50 Main Street, LE12 8RZ, Saturday, 17th May 2014, 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm — 50p entrance fee.

Leicestershire County Livestock Show, Melton Cattle Market, LE13 1JY, Saturday, 5th July 2014, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Barrow upon Soar High Street Market, Sunday, 6th July 2014, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Keep a watch out for our next (Summer) Newsletter, where you'll find more events to come along to.

Help is always very welcome so please email newsletter@collegegarthkennels.co.uk well before the date of the event if you would like to get involved.