



Friends of Wallace Kennels

Charity No: 1019306

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NEWSLETTER N° 119 December 2025

Dear Friends

Winter is here following a warm autumn, we have rain and now the cold weather. Last week we were in double figures. As I write this we are in single figures, -1 this morning so a bit chilly by the coast. Hope you all have your winter woollies ready.

As the last Newsletter of the year, we are looking back on a successful year of fundraising with two new events that took off. The afternoon tea and the Blackmore village fayre. A big thank you to Carol, who was the afternoon tea organiser for the May and November events. Both went exceedingly well and looked great with beautiful table decorations and great food. Julia and Chris manned the stall at Blackmore that did very well, thanks to them both.

I am sad to let you know that we recently lost one of our longest serving supporters and fundraisers, Joan Spicer. Joan was dedicated to supporting Wallace Kennels for the past 40 years and passed away after a long illness. Joan very much loved all animals, especially dogs, and deplored all cruelty. Joan always had rescue dogs and even in the middle of a fundraising event she took home a dog nobody wanted, originally to foster but ended up giving the dog a forever home. Joan also donated to other small rescues including ones from abroad helping dogs that were destined for the meat trade or just to help find them homes or medical treatment. She will be missed by us all and I will remember her as a true animal advocate and our charity is grateful for all the support she gave over the years. Our thoughts are with her daughter Caroline, who continues in her mum's footsteps, especially through her work on our 'collectables' stall at the Jumble sales.

Thank you all for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. On behalf of Friends of Wallace Kennels, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2026
Teresa, FOWK Chairperson

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Christmas Box Appeal

Harringtons or Dr. Johns dry food – all kibble sizes including Puppy.

Any tinned dog meat, pouches, foil trays or slabs. Tinned Sardines in oil and Hi-Life/Encore chicken breast.

Dog treats i.e. pigs ears, hooves, dried sausages, fish skins, jerky, chicken feet, duck or chicken fillet treats, rodeo sticks, gravy bones, shapes, markies pizzles, allsorts, antlers, jumbones, smacros and such like – NO raw hide treats.

We need Nyla bones, bull bars and knuckle bones for the chewers.

Strong robust dog toys (no squeakies), tennis balls, footballs, ropes and soft toys for the smaller dogs.

Collars, leads and harnesses are very much needed of all sizes.

Washing machine liquid or pouches plus conditioner for the dogs bedding would be much appreciated.

Thank you kindly for your support.

Wallace Kennels have launched a Christmas appeal.

Dee says 'Thanks to your very kind generosity in the past it does keep us going for most of the year without having to appeal further'

All donations for the Christmas box appeal can arrive in a box, a carrier bag, a pillow case - any way you like but they do need to arrive before Christmas Eve please.

If you do not wish to do a box, there is also our Amazon wish list - both are just to give an idea of items you could pick up whilst doing your weekly shopping.



OUR EVENTS

Time for Tea



Following the success of our spring afternoon tea event, we held another on 9th November, at Blackmore Village Hall, with a Remembrance/Christmas theme. With your support, we raised nearly £2,000 through ticket sales, raffle, tombola and a nearly new stall. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. We plan two more teas for next year, so watch this space for details.



Jumble Sales

Our recent Christmas Jumble at Blackmore on 22nd November was an amazing success, with a packed out hall and more jumble than we've ever seen, so plenty of bargains to be had. We raised just over £2,000 which will help towards our ever-increasing vet bill and fuel payments, so thank you to all our loyal customers and also to our tireless volunteers for helping on the day.

We have five jumble sales planned for next year, with dates as follows:

7th March, 2nd May, 25th July and 26th September - Doddinghurst Village Hall, CM15 0NJ

5th December - Blackmore Village Hall, CM4 0QW

Times as usual 10am till 12noon.

Jumble donations - Please contact Teresa regarding jumble donations (07860 288643) and don't forget we are always on the lookout for jewellery - even odd earrings or broken bits - as it all helps to raise money; also watches, perfumes and toiletries. Thank you.

KENNEL YAP



We currently have around 15 dogs in the kennels. There has been a steady flow of dogs in and out with around 75% getting homed within a couple of weeks once they have had all the checks and any medical treatment they need. Smaller dogs seem to get homed quicker than their bigger companions, which is great for them but not so for the larger breeds. However, despite there being some long termers, there are happy endings, such as the lovely Malinois, Hugo, who after 8 months in kennels is now enjoying life in his 'forever' home, you can see his story in our real life rescues section below. Work on the bottom block of kennels is ongoing.

Dog walkers are always welcome at the kennels.

If you are interested in walking, please call Suzanne on 07788 528324, she will be happy to discuss days and times, thank you.

Fun ways to help raise funds

Don't forget you can help us raise funds in lots of ways without personally donating a penny.



Christmas Shopping? Simply register with Give as You Live at

www.giveasyoulive.com and every time you shop online a donation will be made to Friends of Wallace Kennels.



Play The Essex Lottery and support our cause whilst being in with a chance to support Essex charities, including Friends of Wallace Kennels.

<https://www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/find-a-good-cause>





Pearl



Cane Corso – 4 years old spayed & microchipped. She has had a hernia, which was attached to her ovary, removed. Vaccinations started. Weighs 50kg. Temperament is superb. We cannot fault this girl in any way. She sings to you in the car for a little bit and then quiets down but otherwise travels well, walks beautifully on the lead and is not a puller unless she specifically wants to go somewhere that is more interesting than where she was going. Pearl is clean in her kennel so would say house trained.



Bentley



French Bulldog, 4 years old. This boy has come along so much from the badly behaved dog that arrived with us 2 months ago. He goes out daily with all the different dog walkers - that was an impossible job at the beginning. He now wants fuss and affection and lets you in to his "space". Don't get me wrong he does still have the odd day where he reverts back to demon dog but then he remembers that being good = rewards and good things.

For full details on these dogs and all the others looking for homes visit the Wallace Kennels website <https://www.wallacekennels.com/>

Real Life Rescues



In this edition, as a special Christmas treat, we have two stories to share with you, we hope you enjoy them. We would still love to have your stories to add to newsletters and our website. Please email our secretary Julia, at FOWKsecretary@btinternet.com with your rescue tale and she will get it up on the webpage, it would be lovely to hear from you.

Ethel's story by Rose Westall

Ethel, the small scruffy lurcher moved in with James and I, newly weds, in January 2014 from Wallace Kennels. She soon took up running with us at our running club, and on a few times ran off but was soon found, full of adrenaline from a chase!

We moved to our first house later that year and she settled in with no problems.

The next big adventure was the arrival of our first child, Arthur. I remember Ethel coming into the room where I sat with Arthur, she sat on the sofa next to us, gave him a lick to the head and settled back down.

We moved to Suffolk two years later to be closer to family, and Ethel's furry relatives, Ivy, a small black lurcher, who grew grey with Ethel and Dan, a big black and white lurcher. Ethel loved these dogs! And my parents, who are definitely Ethel's grandparents, lots of dog sitting and treats!

Since Arthur, Ethel has welcomed three more children into her life, in a similarly chilled out way (pictured below with Jack, her number one fan). Ethel knows to just take herself away and curl up somewhere quiet when things get loud. Ethel is such a calm natured girl.

Ethel has also adjusted to living with a cat. Pumpkin the kitten moved in around two years ago and Ethel is often seen licking her face.

Ethel was also not bothered by the three guinea pigs we had for seven years or our chickens.

Ethel really is child friendly, cat friendly and small furry friendly!

She is still going, but I do wonder how old she is and how long she'll keep going, she still has the odd energetic burst and manages a stroll a day.

Thank you Wallace Kennels for giving us Ethel from Rose, James, Arthur, Jack, Stanley and Rufus.





Hugo's story by The Sandells

Our journey started when we lost our beloved Petal, a rescue staffy. She was 18 yrs when she went over rainbow bridge, we had her for 14 years. We were almost certain we could never love another or fill the void until ...

Roy (dad) saw an amazing video of Hugo on tiktok and fell in love with him instantly because of his story. Nic (mum) at almost exactly same time saw his story on Wallace Kennel's Facebook page. Together we read his story, and the rest is history! We knew we had to apply, and bring him home!

Hugo - He is a big baby with the warmest hugs. He is the size of a small pony hahaha but the joy and warmth he brings our family match his size perfectly.

He has a parrot brother, Charlie, that he now ignores unless trying to steal his monkey nuts, but when Hugo first came home he was a jealous boy, who wasn't a huge fan of his new brother. And a human sister, Dolly, who adores him, and likes teaching him new tricks (which he perfects instantly).

Hugo is very protective of his sister and they are the best of friends.



Hugo was nervous, a little scared, and didn't know where he belonged but we soon taught him the sofa, the bed, walks in the forest and endless cuddles is exactly where he belongs.

Hugo would quite often pace the house and struggled to relax but as you can see by the pictures, he is now very settled and his anxiety has surely disappeared.



Hugo now enjoys movie nights on the bed with his mum, following his dad around like his little shadow and also keeping dad very active with his walks.

Hugo was very reactive with other dogs, and when he was bucking (as we call it because of his size hahaha) and barking, it made us wonder if he could ever have a life as a comfortable boy with friends. Well..... with the help of our dog walker/trainer Joe he now goes out and plays with others. He is very popular with his group, although he does still make his presence known, as it is only his way of chatting, he is just trying to socialise which we now know never happened before.



He is cuddly and warm so winter was the perfect time to get an extra blanket 😊. There was a sign from above, maybe our Petal? that brought the love that we missed back to us. They say a rescue dog is grateful for a new family, we say not as grateful as us!

We would love to thank Friends of Wallace Kennels and Wallace Kennels and their staff for bringing Hugo to our lives and completing our family.

You can also follow more of Hugo's antics as Dolly set Hugo up his own tiktok page (@hugosandell) and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hugo.sandell> where we post regular updates. He has quite the fan base and you can follow along on all of Hugo's adventures.

Love Roy, Nic, Dolly, and Charlie and a big woof from Hugo Sandell.

Thank you for reading

