



Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter

As Irish Retriever Rescue moves into another year we find ourselves busier than ever rescuing dogs.

In 2014 we rescued 130 dogs – the most ever in one year! 2015 is heading the same way, but we have made the decision for the time being to concentrate on Irish and English dogs, and only take foreign dogs when we have the capacity and funding to help.

Dogs come into our Rescue for a variety of reasons. Quite often they are surrendered by their owners due to changes in family circumstances. Others are abandoned and collected by Dog Wardens to be taken to the Pounds. All dogs that come into our care are examined, spayed or neutered and microchipped. Dogs are also given mandatory vaccinations and necessary legal documentation before travelling with registered dog transporters to the UK. But all this comes at a huge cost, and we are constantly looking for new ideas to raise funds, and that's where we need you to help us! If you arrange a dog walk for friends (Paws Walk), arrange a Coffee Morning, a pitch at a Car Boot Sale, or any thing else that can help us raise much needed funds, please contact one of our Fund Raising team and they will advise you. Tracey Quinn is once again running the London Marathon on our behalf and

we'd like to encourage you to sponsor her! Last year Tracey raised £1300 for IRR, and she'd like to exceed that this year. The Marathon takes place on 26th April and if you'd like to sponsor her please look at the link further down this page.

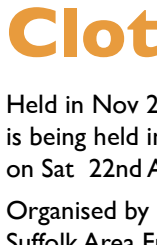
Early this year two of our Trustees stood down – Nicky Herring for family reasons, and Aileen Hurley Smith, who has secured an exciting new job that takes her abroad for much of her time. We wish them well and thank them both for all their hard work and dedication. We would like to welcome back Lorraine Johnston, one of the four original founders of IRR, into the role of Trustee. Already a member of our Pictures & Chat Facebook page, she has already no time getting to know everyone. Hopefully it will be like putting back on a comfortable pair of old shoes! We also welcome Beverley Green to the Team as Secretary – welcome aboard Bev, exciting times ahead!

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the warmer weather, and a fun packed summer doing things with our dogs. I do hope you enjoy this issue and find lots to interest you – Happy reading!

The Newsletter is issued four times a year. The Editor, Vanessa Stollery is always looking for contributions and interesting articles so please e-mail her at irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk if you have anything you would like included in the next issue.



Tracey Quinn



SUFFOLK FUNDRAISING GROUP

Clothing Sale

Held in Nov 2014 near Ipswich and raised £400. Another is being held in Martlesham Community Hall, Near Ipswich on Sat 22nd April 2015

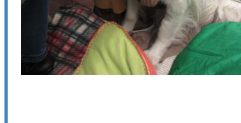
Organised by Carol Richardson & Vanessa Stollery, the Suffolk Area Fundraising Co-ord, helped by Kerrie Prentice, Sara Pells (and IRR Brandy!) and Sara Davie

Sara Pells & IRR Brandy and Carol Richardson & Charlie Farley Stollery



Tesco Collection Team Suffolk in Dec 2014! Raised £300 for IRR – a really good way to raise funds!

IRR Brandy, holding onto Charlie's toy, the first time he has shown an interest in any other toys!



Charlie Stollery & Carol Richardson, Tia and Bonnie Birt & Lisa Birt



First Aid for your pet

What to include in a basic kit

We all hope it never happens, but it is always best to be prepared for accidents, however minor or major!

first-aid-kit Unfortunately in many cases of accident or injury, your pet will need to be seen by a veterinary surgeon. However there are steps you can take to provide first aid to your pet and enable you to transport them in as comfortable manner as possible. Here is what Vets Now suggest we put in our animal First Aid Kit.

This advice is NOT a substitute for a proper consultation with a vet and is only intended as a guide, if you are concerned about your pet, always speak to your vet.

Suggested contents for your pet first aid box

- Sterile Saline Wash. Useful if your pet has debris or smoke in their eyes. Apply liberally and try to flush the eyes until all debris is removed. You can also use sterile saline to flush out minor wounds
- Water. Water can also be used to flush out minor wounds. It is useful for rehydrating a pet, soothing burns, washing off toxins, soaking a paw, or cooling an overheated pet. Don't forget a dish for your pet to drink from if you are away from home.
- Bandages. Gauze, clean rags, even a sock can be used as bandage material to help control bleeding and keep wounds clean until they can be treated by your veterinary surgeon. Melolin, nappies or sanitary pads can be used to cover wounds before applying a bandage. Non-adhesive vet wrap is also great to have in a pet first aid kit, as it does not stick to animal fur and is easier to remove.
- Tape. Micropore tape is useful for securing dressings (and is easy to tear). Alternatively, duct tape can be useful for holding temporary bandages in place.
- Blanket/towel. This can be used to help keep your pet warm and combat shock. You can use a blanket or towel to wrap your pet in on the journey to the vet, or if your pet is immobile you can use it as a stretcher to lift your pet on.
- Gloves. If you can wear surgical gloves when dealing with an injury it helps to reduce any further contamination of the injury. Discard after use.
- Plastic pouches/bags. Used to cover foot injuries and help keep them clean, fasten with tape. This will help minimise blood spillages on to carpets, furniture and your car.
- Scissors. For cutting tape, gauze, splints, or fur.
- Tweezers. Tweezers can be useful for removing objects like thorns from a paw. Tweezers are more likely to remove the entire object, where as fingers can break an object and leave part remaining.
- Medications. If your pet is on regular medication, it is wise to keep a small amount in the first aid box. In addition, consider stypic powder, which is used to stop bleeding in cases of minor cuts or torn nails and sugar tablets for diabetic pets or a small pet with low blood sugar.
- Washing up liquid. Washing up liquid, is very effective in removing toxins from the skin and fur. Just remember to rinse thoroughly with water afterwards.
- Contact details. It is worth making a note of phone numbers for your local vet and the emergency service. In case of a car accident, previous medical history.
- The National Animal Welfare Trust has come up with a great idea to use your now defunct Tax Disc holder. It stores emergency information about you and your pets, can be printed off from their website and cut out and inserted into the holder. Additional information, like Fido is nervous of strangers or Rover is allergic to chicken will help the emergency services look after your pet correctly.
- There will be other items that you will feel are useful, but remember this is intended as a basic kit for simple First Aid

Please note: Vets Now assumes no liability for the content of this page. This advice is not a substitute for a proper consultation with a vet and is only intended as a guide. Please contact your local veterinary practice for advice or treatment immediately if you are worried about your pet's health - even if they are closed, they will always have an out of hours service available.

Volunteer Profile:

The Knitter

I was taught to knit as a girl and it is something that I enjoy doing, so I thought, put it to use and help others, my 'others' are IRR. I love these gorgeous dogs and I will do anything I can to help to rescue them.

I like to make items that I hope people will like and enjoy, there is something special about hand knitted items, they have been made with love, care and thought.

I can knit most anything from pram blankets to small toys and small Christmas stockings. The toys I have knitted recently have sold so well on our Auction page and proved to be popular on our Christmas. I also knit lace items which are very pretty and so easy to make and what's more, they last for years.

This is, in my small way, how I help to raise much needed money for IRR.

I always try to look for bargains when buying wool and lace so the less I pay the more profit we make.

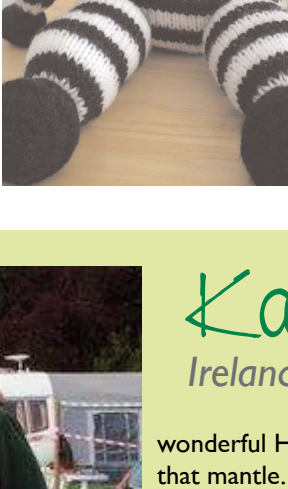
I also run the Pins & Needles page for supporters who knit, sew or craft, and we try to encourage new members in their chosen field. It doesn't matter what you do!

If you can knit, or know someone who can, then you will be very welcome to help us raise the much needed money.

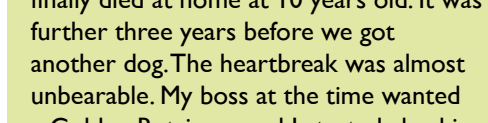
If you know anyone who has any spare wool or any patterns, or fabrics etc they would like to donate, then please contact Vanessa (irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk) who will give details of where to send them.

Thank you

Lesley Jones



Introducing:



My family and I have had rescue dogs all our lives. Poochie, a Cairn was given as a gift by my uncle, and Raggy, an English Shepherd who was the subject of a book called 'Circles in the Sand – A Dog's Tale'. I then got Sheila, a Collie, when Raggy went to Rainbow Bridge at the ripe old age of 15. Sheila, had been bounced from one place to another until we got her and finally died at home at 10 years old. It was a further three years before we got another dog. The heartbreak was almost unbearable. My boss at the time wanted a Golden Retriever and I started checking out breeders and he purchased one, and the following day I bought two Golden Retrievers from the same breeder and called them Laurel and Hardy.

I first got in touch with Irish Retriever Rescue UK in March 2011 by pure accident. I had written a book called 'Circles in the Sand – A Dog's Tale' and wanted to give some of the proceeds to charity. As it turned out, although the book seemed well received, the lack of commercial advertising and publicity did not help sales, which was a real shame but I still enjoyed the experience.

By the time November 2011 had come around I had adopted my previous boss's dog who I renamed Charlie Chaplin from (my first IRR dog) when Sandie rang me asking was there anything I could do. Angel needed a lot of help and Charlie adored her and vice versa. I wasn't going to give up on her and am glad that their relationship has been going from strength to strength. I work full time and love being busy so I did a lot of fundraising for the street for Irish Retriever Rescue UK with my dogs Laurel and Hardy.

I met Sandie Bissett at the opening of my book launch in March 2011 and was impressed by her passion and dedication to the breed. 'Once you've had a Golden you'll never have another breed' was her no nonsense mantra. I must say that at the time I thought 'yeah sure' but it has turned out she happened to be right on the money. When Sandie left after her endless years as Ireland Co-ordinator she left someone in charge for a few weeks until a stand-in could be found. I say a stand-in as, trying to find a replacement with the amount of hard work, sheer dedication and passion in the same paragraph would be nearly impossible. I offered to see if I could do anything to help but it meant starting from scratch Southside of Dublin city the first week of July 2014. New Vets, Kennels, Groomer if needed, a complete re-organization by trying to get a new network of people prepared to help. Paddy and Evelyn came to our aid as they run a Rescue and a kennels and we hold our dogs with them until we can get a foster. The Vets are the ones I have used for 15 years so I knew they would be good.

To start with we were unable to get dogs from Northern Ireland unless we had a Northern Ireland Coordinator who understood the way things ticked in the North. In November of this year the



Kathryn Crofton

Ireland Coordinator

wonderful Heather Hawthorne took up that mantle. She grooms the dogs, fosters, transports, medical, passport and arranges the transport to the UK. She is an amazing individual and a great personal friend. Kay O'Grady took up the task of home-checking, fostering, and transporting in Cork and the surrounding area and letting me know of dogs in need. Martina of Babydog Rescue helps in the West from Co. Clare and is a smashing friend, often driving hours to meet me get a dog in need.

Once I collect the dog, I groom him, get medical care, passport him and get him ready for transport 21-25 days afterwards, however, I do have a list of people in Ireland that I have either had home-checked or have home-checked myself and am pleased to say that we have had 4 dogs rehomed in Ireland since I took over in July.

We have built up great relationships with different rescues and dog pounds in a very short space of time. In my personal view, rescues need to work with Dog Pounds and forge a strong relationship built on trust and respect. I would not even want to comprehend what it is like to have to put a dog to sleep and then go home, it must be so demoralizing and soul destroying. This is why neutering and spaying is so important and shutting down puppy mills that are the authors of so much misery.

My staunch IRR supporter is my 84 year old mother who looks after my dogs when they are not at daycare and often accompanies me on the really long trips to stuff me with sweets and Coca cola so I don't fall asleep. She is really great. I should add that my friend Kevin has helped drive a couple of long trips with me which is great.

Sometimes the distances are vast from one city to another and the drive time can be anything from 6 to 15 or 16 hours round trip so it can be exhausting, this is done to put the much needed money to the best use possible. I don't do as much fundraising as I used to and need to get back into it again, but we did well during the Christmas period. I love meeting people and showing them the fabulous breed we are so privileged to look after.

The team in the UK, are wonderful and without any of whom I wouldn't even want to try to go on. We are all part of a team whether we are in England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales. We all love Goldens and do our best to help them, knowing that we do our utmost is what makes IRR so very special and hope to be worthy of the trust that the team places in me, indeed I will work as hard as I can to make sure that that continues.

Kathryn Crofton
Ireland Co-ordinator

Support Tracey Quinn (and IRR):

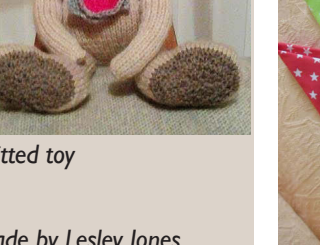
On April 26th, Tracey Quinn is running the London Marathon for Irish Retriever Rescue, to sponsor Tracey please paypal: irr.donate@yahoo.co.uk and mark it MARATHON

You can follow her training progress and offer support from her Facebook page: [facebook.com/events/81832383225456](https://www.facebook.com/events/81832383225456)

What We Like



Soap & flannel duo



Knitted toy



Why not spruce up your dog's style with one of our lovely dog bandanas. Available in a variety of snazzy patterns. £5 each plus p&p. Contact: irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk

These lovely bunnies are made by Lesley Jones, if you would like either of these items, or would like Lesley to knit you something else, please send a request to irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk and Vanessa will put you in touch with Lesley.

To see more gift items visit the website and click Gift Shop: www.irishretrieverrescue.com/merchandise

Life Through The Eyes Of an IRR Rescue Dog - OSSIE

Abandoned to the pound so frightened and scared, I never thought that anyone cared.

But Sandie rescued me and found me a loving home, I am so happy now that I would never roam.

I had knots and tangles everywhere, my last owners and tangles didn't care.

I was chained up, starved and very sad, why can some people be so bad.

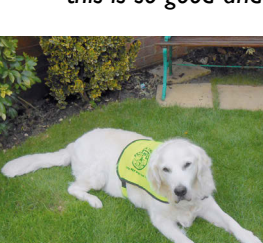
Most foods really upset my tummy, but Mum sorted it out and now my food is yummy.

After losing Kerry & Honey and feeling all the pain, Mum & Dad said, I have made their lives whole again.

I always go out three times a day and run and run, and now my life is so much fun.



We go to the beach where I swim and play, this is so good and really makes my day.



I have been a Pets as Therapy dog for over two years, and I help the children get over their fears.

I love my special little and a wheelchair, I love to kiss his hand and show him that I care.

I am a Sponsor Dog for IRR too, to raise money to help the poorly dogs too.



I love my Mum and Dad so very much, I really like their loving touch.

I am so happy that my life has turned around, love and happiness I have truly found.

Thanks again to IRR for rescuing me, I am so happy it's plain to see.

FOSTERERS URGENTLY NEEDED



contact irr.foster@yahoo.co.uk

The CHARLIE FARLEY Five Minute Interview



Getting to know our IRR dogs! No3: Martha Johnston

CFS: Hello Martha, how long have you been an IRR dog?

MJ: Well technically, I'm not! I've been an honorary IRR dog since my Mam set IRR up 10 years ago. This interview should have been for my brother Brynny, but if I want what Brynny has, I take it! Plus Charlie, as brilliant a journalist as you are, I'm not really sure what you could do with "I want my Mammy", "I want that cat" which is about all that dimwit says!

CFS: Where did you come from and how were you found?

MJ: Just like my Mam, I'm Welsh... and I speak the lingo!

CFS: I understand that you are known by another name... and have a bit of a reputation...

MJ: This is not folklore, I AM MONSTER MARTH. I'm 16 and a half and it aint changing any time soon! Little girl's dream of being a queen, so did I. But not like Lizzie, I've modelled myself on the real Queen... Bea Smith from Prisoner Cell Block H. I is top dog.

CFS: Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are their names?

MJ: I've had a few, but just the one now - Broack and Brynny! The dog so stupid he ate a sock and cost my Mammy 5.5k. Somebody burned his face in Ireland if only I'd been his sister then; they would soon have found out nobody messes with the monsta or her posse! He's got his own bodyguard now, well 3, me, my Mammy and my Daddy.

CFS: What do you like and what don't you like Martha?

MJ: Likes: Food, food, food, food, and a bit more food. Dislikes: Anyone bar me having fun. I am the fun police and if it doesn't involve me, it's not happening on my watch... that goes for 2 or 4 legged creatures.

CFS: Are you a good dog? Have you done anything really naughty?

MJ: I'm very good When my Mammy and Daddy got married, Daddy's brother came over from Australia. You would have thought after more than 30 hours travelling he would have been so excited to me? Nope, quick cuddle and then he fell asleep in MY dog bed... So I poked all over him But because I'm not just any old dog, I am monster Martha... the piece de resistance, I helped myself to some cat delicacies in the garden first! Now that ladies and gentlemen is a welcome, I bet he can still smell it now

CFS: I hear you are a regular at Da Bar?

MJ: At the bar, yes. IN the bar, no. Due to some unfortunate incidents and previous abnos's, I am on the pubwatch scheme and banned from every establishment. I do however loiter outside with intent; I shan't elaborate on those intentions!

CFS: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

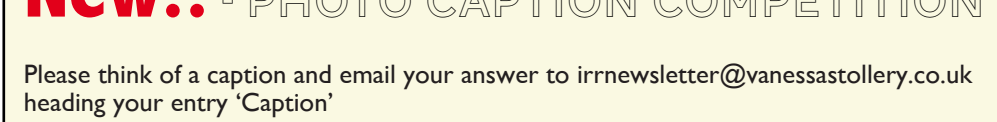
MJ: Hmmm, Share? Share? Nobody mentioned flaming sharing! Nope, not happening, not now, never. The monster does not share, comprende?! But I will impart some wisdom to my young protégés, live your life by this philosophy and you won't go far wrong "if you can't eat it, roll in it! But always try to eat it first"

CFS: Well thank you Monster, er, Martha for a very interesting interview. Sorry that Brynny was unable to take part but I'm sure he would be delighted that you did it for him. If he knew. And you allowed him...

New!! - PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Please think of a caption and email your answer to irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk heading your entry "Caption"

The competition will close on 1st May 2015, and the winner will be published on the IRR Website and the Official IRR Facebook page.



Next Issue

The next issue is to be published in June, so if you could please send reports of events and photo's to be included in the Summer Newsletter to irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk by the 28th May, that would be wonderful.