

Winter 2011

# PetFostering

Service Scotland



in collaboration with



THE BLUE CROSS  
www.bluecross.org.uk



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
TO ONE  
AND ALL**



## gift wrapping

PFSS will be spreading Christmas cheer by offering our gift wrapping services at Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre in Leith, Edinburgh on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th December. Can you offer to help for a couple of hours? The gift wrapping, cellotape and tags are all provided free of charge for the charity and to maximise the amount we can raise for PFSS we need a large team of volunteers. The gift wrapping stall will run from 12-8pm both days. If you would like to help spread Christmas cheer and fundraise for PFSS at the same time please contact Natalie 0131 449 4393 / [info@pfss.org.uk](mailto:info@pfss.org.uk) with the date and time you are available to help.

**'It's almost time to make New Years Resolutions for 2012. Pet Fostering Service Scotland would like to appeal for you to put your particular skills to raise funds for PFSS.**

Perhaps you are a budding baker? Why not organise a bake sale or coffee morning for PFSS?

Or maybe you look after/walk friends' pets – would they be willing to make a donation to PFSS for keeping their furry family members company?

Whatever your talent is...PFSS needs you! Raising funds becomes more challenging for charities each year and we know our volunteers are a talented bunch!

Perhaps your talent involves being an avid bargain hunter/shopholic?! Remember to click on [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

prior to making your online purchases and raise funds for PFSS at no cost to you. Thanks to our current 24 'easyfundraisers' who have raised £190 for the charity, just by the click of a mouse!

**JustTextGiving™**  
by  **vodafone**

Think of our furry friends at Christmas, PFSS are running a Christmas donation appeal – instead of sending Christmas cards to your friends and family why not use that money to donate to PFSS in lieu of Christmas cards? Christmas donations can be sent via cheque to 'PFSS' or by texting 'PFSS01' to 70070. All funds raised will go towards our emergency hardship fund for pets in our care.

**PFSS are selling two never been used interactive SMARTboards (model 640) which were donated to the charity.**



The SMARTBoard Interactive Whiteboard has the combined advantages of a projector, computer and whiteboard. You can do everything you do on your computer—and more. By touching the SMARTboard Interactive Whiteboard you can highlight key points, access applications and Websites and write notes in electronic ink. All work can be saved in one file and print, email or post to a website. The SMARTboard comes with a stand and carry case. These are open to offers of donations, all donations going directly to PFSS. Full specifications are available by contacting PFSS on 0131 449 4393 or by emailing [info@pfss.org.uk](mailto:info@pfss.org.uk)

## VACANCIES

**PFSS are still looking to recruit Area Organisers in the following areas:**

**Edinburgh & Lothians  
Glasgow  
Inverness**

**If you are interested please visit our website [www.pfss.org.uk](http://www.pfss.org.uk), email [volunteeringwithpfss@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:volunteeringwithpfss@yahoo.co.uk) or call 0844 811 9909. We would like to welcome all our new volunteers and in particular Amanda and David who are now coordinating the Dumfries & Galloway area. We are really excited to expand the service in Dumfries & Galloway, especially after such a long period with no local volunteers.**

## Dog Behaviour Training

**Thanks to the feedback from our volunteers we know that pet behaviour training is something that would be useful. As such the first dog behaviour clinic will be held by Lisa Hird on Tuesday 21st February 2012 and will run from 10:15am-4pm at The Pavillion, 47 Aberdalgie Road, Glasgow G34 9HX**

The course will be limited to 25 attendees so for this first training session we will be giving priority to active dog foster carers, home visitors and area organisers. Training will include: introducing a foster dog to your home and family, settling in do's and don't's and calming work. Please RSVP to Natalie on 0131 449 4393 or by emailing [info@pfss.org.uk](mailto:info@pfss.org.uk)



**We would ask if your availability changes to let Natalie know as soon as possible so we can allow another volunteer to attend in your place.**

# ORKNEY PET EXPERT HELPS NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE DOGS

Deerness resident Stephen Jenkinson – specialist in people and their pets – flew out to New Zealand to help residents of Christchurch rebuild a more dog-friendly city in the aftermath of their devastating earthquakes.

## Steve reports on his visit to Australia and New Zealand...

I was already planning to be in Australia to address their pet-care industry about how to make parks, beaches and new housing developments more dog-friendly and was happy to be able to combine this trip with a journey to New Zealand as well.

Until my visit, I'd imagined the Aussie "no worries" attitude would make the country more dog-friendly than the UK, especially with 30 times more space and a third as many people.

But I've found quite the opposite is true.

While some councils minimise restrictions, many make extensive bylaws, forcing dogs to be on a lead in all public places, apart from a few designated "off-leash" areas. Sydney has 30 miles of ocean beaches – and you can't walk your dog on any of them.

Dogs are also banned from buses and trains, making it even harder for responsible owners – especially the less well-off – to provide the daily off-lead exercise most dogs enjoy and need. Councils also impose limits on the number of dogs in a home (which can be as low as two), irrespective of their size or good behaviour.

It had been an interesting visit to Australia but I was keen to get to New Zealand to offer help and advice to the quake-ravaged Christchurch.

Quite apart from loss of 181 lives in last February's quake, the cracks and ground movements mean that 10,000 homes need to be rebuilt elsewhere. And as Christchurch has more pet dogs than anywhere else in the country, my mission here is helping locals to ensure the homes and greenspaces are as dog-friendly as possible.



A massive reconstruction programme is underway and local officials had requested my help, so they can better accommodate pet owners' needs, and promote the many positive aspects of dog ownership, such as fewer visits to the doctors, companionship, and regular daily exercise through dog walking.

"I had very mixed emotions when I got there, especially as tremors continue to this day, and the destruction is still very much there to see.

But while work was a priority, I was also determined to see more of this country than Christchurch. And in the few days off I snatched between engagements to tour around South Island, so many times I thought "it's just like the Highlands of Scotland".

That's where the similarity ends though, as if you want a countryside walk with your 'best friend' the difference could not be greater. Whereas Scotland has the most extensive access-giving laws in Europe, opportunities for a dog walk – even on lead – are often few and far between in rural New Zealand. Christchurch residents have the highest level of dog ownership in New Zealand, but face increasing restrictions on where they could go and what they could do, such as fewer places for off-lead exercise and being banned from public transport.

As 10,000 homes need to be demolished, and many areas of the city and suburbs cannot be built on due to instability, cracks and landslides, many new parks, paths and greenspaces are to be provided instead.

The Blue Cross collaboration with Pet Fostering Service Scotland has now surpassed its 100th adoption. Gypsy was admitted to PFSS when her owner was made homeless and she was unable to take her to her new accommodation. Gypsy was transferred into The Blue Cross, and unsurprisingly was not waiting for her new home for long. We'd like to thank her adopters Annette and Stephen for welcoming Gypsy into their hearts and home.

The Blue Cross would like to thank all the volunteers who have cared for, transported or carried out home visits on our behalf. We are really thrilled to have reached this landmark and as of the end of October our total adoptions in Scotland have reached 106. Thank also to the special people who have adopted the pets in our care, for supporting The Blue Cross and keeping us updated with lots of lovely photos!

Please visit [www.bluecross.org.uk](http://www.bluecross.org.uk) or [www.pfss.org.uk](http://www.pfss.org.uk) for the current pets looking for their new homes.

**Some of the pets we have helped in the past 3 years, in their new homes...**

**Gypsy**

