

## News in Brief



**Merlin & Ajay  
with their new snowfriend**

\*Support Dogs would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused and delays in responding to enquiries and requests from clients and supporters during the recent winter weather conditions and thank everyone for their cooperation during this difficult time.

\*Our congratulations and thanks go to Lee Myring from Leicester who not only successfully climbed Snowden (the highest peak in England and Wales) but raised over £400 for Support Dogs in the process. The climb was done in memory of Lee's beloved dog; Dash, who sadly passed away last summer.



**Dash**

\*Many thanks to Denise Proctor and friends who braved the snow before Christmas to spend an evening carol singing in Enmore Green, Dorset

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to raise almost £100 in less than two hours. Special thanks go to Norman & Marina Cuttle who welcomed all twelve carolers into their home at the end of the evening for warm mince pies, and mulled wine! Can we come next year please?

\*Thanks also to the members of Wincanton Young Farmers Club who kindly made a £500 donation after a talk from fundraiser Simon Anderson.



**supportdogs**  
assisting disabled people



**January  
2010**

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Support Dogs would like to wish all our supporters, sponsors, clients and their dogs,  
a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.**

## How You Make A Difference!

As you are probably already aware, Support Dogs receives no government funding and relies on your donations and support to continue it's work.

If you were ever in doubt about just what a difference our work and your support makes, then these extracts from a letter we received from Carol Willacy about her recently qualified Support Dog Billy sum it up beautifully.

with excitement. It may only be a pair of smelly socks to you and me, but to Billy it's another chance for him to do something for me and he genuinely loves doing it. He gets so excited it makes me laugh every time, so not only is he helping out physically but he's also bringing fun and laughter into my day. He really loves his job and takes great pride in doing it."

"One of the worst things about being disabled is having to rely on other people to do things and deal with the constant well-meaning offers to have everything done for you. My independence is one of the things I value most in life and Billy now makes this possible."

"Before Billy was trained as an Assistance Dog, I dreaded going out shopping where I frequently had to deal with problems such as dropping something and hence having to climb down clumsily onto the floor to pick it up. People either looked the other way not knowing whether to help or not, or fussed around me making a scene of it. I would cringe with embarrassment and as time went on I went out less and less because of it. Billy has changed this completely. When I drop something now, I'm proud to stand there and watch him pick it up for me and put it into my hand while his tail wags and eyes light up with enjoyment."



**Carol out shopping  
with Billy**

"Every day he amazes me with the things he does. I can't put into words how I feel when I ask him to do a simple task such as pull my socks off and his little eyes light up

"Billy has given me back the independence I thought was lost forever and no words are strong enough to express exactly how much that means to me."

"On the days that I'm overcome with pain, Billy curls up next to me and we have a lazy day in bed. He doesn't fuss me for attention or pester me to get up, but just falls asleep contentedly next to me. The constant feeling of his heartbeat, the warmth of his breath against my skin and the gentle reassuring sound of his snores comforts my pain and replaces it with a happy realisation of how truly lucky I am. Without him, the days would be much darker indeed. "

"Not only am I grateful to Billy for his constant support, but also to everyone who has made this possible. From everyone who has generously donated money, the tireless fundraisers, generous sponsors and patrons, patient foster families and to the team at Support Dogs who recognised the potential in my little terrier friend and looked after him so well, thank you all from the bottom of my heart. "



## Donation Form

I would like to make a donation to Support Dogs. I enclose a cheque for £.....

Title:..... First Name:.....Surname:.....

Address:.....

Postcode:..... Telephone:.....

Email:.....

I am a UK taxpayer & I want the charity to treat: All donations and subscriptions I have made from 6th April 2000 and all those I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature:.....Date:...../...../.....

SD 01/10



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**We're on the Web!**

**www.support-dogs.org.uk**

## January 2010

### Class of 2009



**Foster Carer of the Year 2009**

**Michelle Walker  
with Chair of Trustees  
Kym Stretton**

#### Date For Your Diary

Annual Graduation &  
Awards Day 2010

Saturday 20th November  
Venue: TBC

Support Dogs Annual Graduation & Awards Day took place at the end of 2009 and the charity celebrated 18 new partnerships that qualified in 2009.

Everyone had a great time as clients, dogs, supporters and staff all came together to celebrate.

Special awards went to Foster Carer of the Year: Michelle Walker, Volunteer of the Year Katie Patmore and Fundraiser of the Year Kathie Ward. The inaugural John Fisher Award in recognition of Outstanding Service went to our former Chair of Trustees, Stephen Harfield.

Our special thanks go John Ellis from South Yorkshire Police Dogs Training Dept. for an excellent

presentation about the training of Police Dogs and our friends at Sounds Commercial for providing the presentation & stage equipment.

Apart from the awards the highlight of the day was a highly amusing film about exactly what our dogs in training get up to when the trainers are not watching!

You can view this film on YouTube: at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX\\_nnwbyOvg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX_nnwbyOvg)

**Congratulations to one and all!**

**Volunteer of the Year 2009**

**Katie Patmore**



**Fundraiser of the Year 2009**

**Kathie Ward**



### Noel's Give A Dog A Phone Appeal Update

This time twelve months ago we announced a new mobile phone recycling scheme launched by Noel Edmonds on his Noel's HQ television programme.

Backed by Orange stores across the UK and Regeneris, the phone recycling company, the scheme caught the imagination of our supporters and has raised enough money to fund the training of more than four dogs!

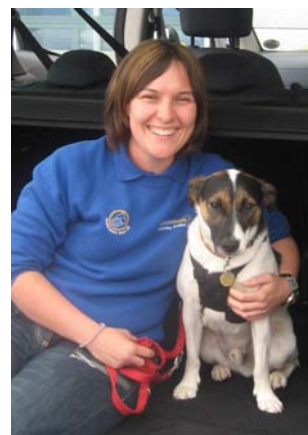
Three rescue dogs have already been sourced and begun their training as a result of the schemes success: Dylan (alias Little Noel), Bertie (alias Little

Cheggers) and Eddie (short for Edmond). We will continue to update you on their progress in future newsletters as well as any new dogs whose training is funded from this appeal.

Our thanks go to everyone who donated their old phones, or collected phones to donate and of course to Noel himself, the team at Orange and our friends at Regeneris for their fantastic support over the last twelve months.

Although this appeal has now come to an end, you can still raise money by recycling through our on-going scheme with Reclaim-it.

Simply call or email us using the contact details on the rear of this newsletter to order your supply of reply paid envelopes and donate your old phones, or ink cartridges, to fundraise for us for free.



**Dylan**



**Bertie**



**Eddie**

## January 2010

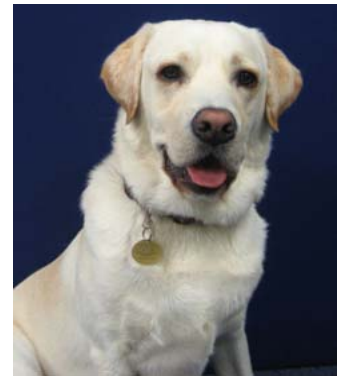
### New Dogs in Training



**Jasper**

Jasper is a two year old Labrador cross Golden Retriever who joined us after a career change from Guide Dogs for the Blind.

He is a very friendly and gentle dog who is in training to become an Autism Assistance Dog and is currently placed and training with a family.



**Woody**

Woody is a two and a half year old yellow Labrador who has just completed his basic residential training with his owner Carol.

He is an adorable and very handsome dog who has a lot of fun doing his tasks.

### In Rebecca we Trust!



**Becca celebrates with her work colleagues**

Rebecca Douglas volunteers her time and expertise to help Support Dogs as one of our team of dedicated trustees but she has also

been making a name for herself in her own profession with Leeds based PR company MCG.

Becca recently received the well-deserved Gold award for Outstanding Young Communicator at this year's Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards for the Yorkshire region.

The judges described Rebecca as a very strong all-round communicator with

a great breadth of experience across a number of sectors and specialist media. (As if we didn't already know!)

Her role with Support Dogs also got a mention and then it was chewsticks all round (and a glass of bubbly or two for Becca of course).

**Congratulations to Becca from all the team at Support Dogs!**

### Crufts 2010



**Ray & Baxter on duty at Crufts**

In 2010 Support Dogs will once again be appearing at the world's greatest dog show: **CRUFTS**.

This year's event takes place from 11th to 14th March at the NEC, Birmingham between 8.15am and 7.30pm each day.

As well as the traditional Best in Show final, DFS Crufts is host to a variety of competitions including the International Agility Championships and the ever popular Friends for Life

contest.

Visitors to the show will be able to meet and greet over 200 breeds in the Discover Dogs area and find out more about buying the right dog for them.

#### What's On

Thursday 11th: Working & Pastoral  
Friday 12th: Terrier & Hound  
Saturday 13th: Toy & Utility  
Sunday 14th: Gundog

You can also visit our stand in Hall Two (Stand No. 58) and meet some of our staff, clients and our dogs.

Plus ray and baxter will be waiting to greet you on our always popular tombola!

**For further information please visit <http://www.crufts.org.uk/>**

**We'd love to see you there!**